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Whaling
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J. A. E[illegible]

James Allen

Thoughts as they occurred, and Things as they took place.

in a whaling voyage
in the
Bark Alfred Gibbs.
Capt. Jennings.

Sailed
May 24th
1870

Journal on board Bk. Alfred Gibbs
N.A.C. May 1870

Tuesday May 24 1870

Now I am about to commence a new business having enough of working on a farm year after year. so I shipped on board the Bk Alfred Gibbs of New Bedford for the 215th part of the proceeds of a whaling voyage in the Pacific Ocean left home bid my parents and friends Good bye at seven in the morning at at ten found myself on board the ship that is to be my future home we were soon under weigh but wind and tide were against us and we had to come to an anchor and we turned in with feelings not to be envied

Wednesday May 25

All hands were called at four and we went through about the same performance that we did the day before and none of us felt any better. the Capt. told me I must go in the steerage as steerage boy so I of course packed up and went to wait on boatsteerers cooper &c

Thursday May 26

Called all hands at four Oclock and as the wind was fair we soon left N. America far behind the Pilot left us at eight in the morning and I dont think the ship would have a full crew if they could all get on shore now

Friday May 27th

Stormy and our feeling none can realise but those who have "been there" all or nearly all of the greenhands were seasick and we all or nearly all were heartsick and homesick but here we are bound south and not of our own accord I think

Journal on board

June 1870

Saturday May 28

Better weather and I felt better but not in very high spirits today we are in the Gulf stream in just such water as I used to go in swimming I almost wish I was there

Sunday May 29

Good weather today but I think I have begun a hard job to write for I dont see anything to write about. saw a school of porpoises and several sails

Monday May 30

Good weather in the morning but squally in the afternoon saw several finbacks I dont think this will be a very bad life after all

Tuesday May 31st

One week from home and it seems nearer one year. we have good weather and things go on very well saw finbacks and sails

June 1870

Wednesday June 1st

Good weather all day it seems quite pleasant to have nothing to do these pleasant days and if my disposition had been different from a lazy one I would not be here we spoke a schooner bound from New York to Demerara. saw more finbacks

Thursday June 2

Good weather all day and nothing to be seen it is a strange life to me

Friday June 3d

Another fine day. at seven O.clock raised a school of sperm whales. two boats lowered the Starboard and waist the mate struck a small whale-they called it small- but if anyone had told me it would make 200 bbls I should not doubt it- got him alongside at eleven O.clock and cut him in

Bk. Alfred Gibbs

June 1870

Saturday June 4th

Pleasant weather but unpleasant work this is worse than the barnyard-boiling blubber- but it was finished at night finbacks yet in sight and cleared up a little

Sunday June 5th

At seven this morning raised a school of sperm whales and two boats lowered I was one of the waist boats crew this time the mate struck this time and the other whales left got him alongside at noon and cut in in the afternoon

Monday Monday 6

Squally and wet. tried out the blubber and finished at about three Oclock

Tuesday June 7th

Raised a large school of sperm whales at eight Oclock all of the boats lowered and the first second and fourth mates struck. but the fourth mates line got foul with ours + the 2d mates- and he had to cut. waist and larboard boats got each a whale, which we commenced cutting on at about 3 Oclock

Wednesday June 8

Finished cutting this morning at about eight Oclock. had a strong breeze and I was seasick again. raining throughout the night

Thursday June 9

Strong breeze during the day we finished boiling just before dark nothing in sight

Friday June 10

A good breese. and under short sail. we put the oil below 96 bbls. in all and 15 days out not very bad I should think

Saturday June 11th

A pleasant day scrubbed her off nothing to be seen so nothing to write about but my own feelings and they are not particularly pleasant just now

Journal on board

A.O. June 1870

Sunday June 12

Pleasant and quiet until after noon when we were almost sure we saw sperm whales again but they proved to be killers

Monday June 13

Good weather was working on the main-topsail cutting the foot off. nothing to be seen and. well, dont want to

Tuesday June 14

Pleasant weather throughout the day bent the forestaysail. no work going on more a school of blackfish in sight

Wednesday June 15

A fine day but rather dull for me saw a whaleship the first we have seen. nothing more in sight and no work going on

Thursday June 16.

Nice weather at four in the morning sperm whales were raised. but they were to windward and we did not lower until & one O'clock when all of the boats lowered and all got fast but the third mate struck a small calf and cut from him each of the other boats got a whale each cut in one whale

Friday June 17th

Finished cutting at eight in the morning was boiling the remainder of the day nothing more in sight Lat. 35° 5 min Lon. 58° 5 min.

Saturday June 18

Cloudy and thick fog but was boiling all day and got out about 25 bbls. raining throughout the night

Sunday June 19

A calm today. finished boiling in the afternoon nothing to be seen but now we feel better that this greasy oil is tried out and there is a chance for more sleeping on deck

Bk. Alfred Gibbs

A.O. June 1870

Monday June 20th 70

Squally during the day broke out some small stores and stowed down 70 bbls. of oil which was all we had on deck, we now have 165 bbls of sperm oil so much towards a voyage

Tuesday June 21st

More squally weather but what matters it when there is no work to do. one sail in sight

Wednesday June 22

Good weather lowered for a turtle but he was too quick of scent for us at least we did not get him. one sail in sight

Wednesday June 23

A little change today for half of the day was pleasant the other half mix nothing to do and nothing to see

Friday June 24

The sun rose this morning as usual and after giving us his glorious light and warmth about fourteen hours set again I don't know that we profited much by it we did not see anything, or do anything either

Saturday June 25

Good weather during the day, and the only difference between today and yesterday we saw a school of blackfish and the second mate lowered for them but without success

Sunday June 26

Rather unpleasant weather this morning, but but before noon the clouds dispersed and we had the benefit of the sun, but it did not disclose anything except the wide waste of water

Monday June 27th

Another pleasant day to record and the weather is the principle thing to write about of myself and feelings I do not choose to write for I don't know exactly how to give vent to [illegible]

Journal on board

A.O. July 1870

Tuesday June 28

Squally the first twelve hours but better weather the remainder of the day spoke the Schooner Chas. A. Higgins of of Provincetown, Capt. Higgins. five years out with 380 bbls. what a payday to come.

Wednesday June 29

Pleasant weather today what there was to be done was done without any trouble which was relive mastheads and wheel. schooner in sight

Thursday June 30

Calm and dull feelings take possession of one in a calm, or perhaps lazy would be a word better fitted. the ships rolling and the "creaking of cordage and spar" are not so pleasant as the "rush of the gale" one schooner in sight

F

July 1870

Friday July 1st

Calm nothing to be seen and no work going on what a lazy life this must be if all ships are alike but I doubt that

Saturday July 2

A light breeze to ruffle the surface of the water which makes it a little more pleasant I believe ones spirits rise and fall with the wind. but perhaps they dont go quite so far either way

Sunday July 3d

Calm again. for amusement or for something to eat or both we took to catching Dolphin and had very good luck, and also a very good supper one sail in sight

Monday fourth of July

This morning began to set up tackles and such things and I thought Something was to be going on and that we were going to celebrate the fourth of July but I was mistaken for they were setting up main rigging

Bk. Alfred Gibbs

AG. July 5th

Tuesday July 5th 18

Calm in the morning but had a light breeze in the afternoon. one sail in sight and a school of porpoises went across our bow but not [illegible]

Wednesday July 6th

A good breeze during the day and some rain the first half of the day. nothing in sight

Thursday July 7th

Wet and stormy weather all day no man aloft saw a merchant Brig. I think every day is too often to write in this book. once a week, it seems to me would be better. but so it is

Friday July 8th

Good weather with a strong breeze a merchant vessel only in sight one day is just the same as another I think that is why time passes away so quick at sea although this six weeks has not been or seemed so very short

Saturday July 9

Raining this morning but toward noon it cleared up and we broke out some small stores. which is the only work done this week more than to make sail and take it in.

Sunday July 10th 70

Quiet Sabbath: this is a quiet day here. all the watch save the men at the masthead. are sitting around under the bulwarks. reading or conversing in low tones. but what if some whales were seen? would it be quiet sabbath?

Monday July 11th

Pleasant day but nothing was done except a few fish caught and a boat lowered for a keg which proved to be full of lard

Tuesday July 12

Still another pleasant day to chronicle. lowered a boat for turtles with no small success and then lowered for a spar which proved to be worthless.

Journal on board

July 1870

Wednesday July 13

Nothing greeted the eye today but a few turtles spotted here and there over the glassy surface of the "broad Atlantic" calm and rather too warm to be comfortable

Thursday July 14

Fine weather the same kind and more turtles of apparently the same kind this and only this to be seen

Friday July 15

Pleasant day this morn busily engaged making spunyarn the only days work that has been done

Saturday July 16

Warm day, and nothing done but just attending to it. a sail in sight.

Sunday July 17

Good weather during the day with a light N.W. wind. saw land the islands of Flores and Corvo stood in towards them they looked good enough to land on but the most of us dont expect to land before we get to Talcahuano, Chili

Monday July 18th

Pleasant in the morning, we sailed between the islands. saw a whale ship with boats down. but she soon hoisted them up and we tacked ship again and stood in toward the land

Tuesday July 19

Pleasant with a fine breeze. we ran along by the North side of Corvo saw a school of Grampuses and a sail

Wednesday 20

Good weather, but did nothing until after supper when all of the boats lowered for blackfish but without success

Bark Alfred Gibbs

July 1870

Thursday July 21st

Nice weather was out of sight of land saw two sails both whalers.

Friday July 22nd

Cloudy with a strong breeze was steering a course S.E., we must be in the track of merchantmen for we saw three six were seen

Saturday July 23

Fine weather but the same things day after day. one sail in sight a merchantman

Sunday July 24

Good weather three sails in sight saw any number of porpoises, and struck one but could not save one. caught several albicore

Monday July 25

Thick weather and a strong breeze several merchant vessels in sight. how often do I think of the sweat that would flow if I was at home but here I have nothing to do but keep as cool as I can

Tuesday July 26

This day found us busily engaged in 'keeping cool' in fact it was all that was necessary to be done. I will say one word here in regard to what I have written and what I intend to write, it is only to improve my writing and pass away the time that I write this it was neither intended to instruct or amuse, as anyone (if anyone reads this) will find out before reading this far.

Wednesday July 27

Fine all day our course was S. by E. caught quite a number of skipjack and lowered a boat for a school of little fish which were close together by albicore but when we were close to them the albicore left as did the smaller ones

Journal on board

A.C. August 1870

Thursday July 28

Fine weather all day at noon came in sight of Fayal and Pico, and now nothing can be heard but talk of going in running away getting discharge &c For my own part I am not sick of whaling yet

Friday July 29

Calm. but the tide was setting us in toward the land so we were not very far from it at night. during the day lowered about for little fish and caught about a barrel

Saturday July 30

Stormy or rather squally in the morning but before noon we had good weather saw porpoises, grampuses &c we were to windward of land, and all hands apparently in good spirits

Sunday July 31st.

Was nearly out of sight of land in the morning but we wore ship and stood for it in the afternoon saw a whaler she hauled up her courses for us probably for a gamm but we took no notice of her. was close to land at night

August 1870

Monday Aug 1st

Lay off to the windward of land all day. it was calm at night a boat with a crew of Portuguese came alongside, and we had a little excitement by a Kanaka who had a great aversion to that race of people. and showing it by throwing the cooks wood at them

Tuesday Aug. 2d.

Good weather, all hands were called at [illegible] in the morning, and commenced breaking oil. had it out and ready to go on shore before seven o'clock at eight we lowered

Bark Alfred Gibbs

August 1870

a boat and the Capt went ashore saw some launches came off after our oil, took half of it by twelve the Capt came on board it was rather calm and the tide was carrying us through toward St. George's island so no more was done

Wednesday Aug 3d

Again this morning at eight had a nice breeze which carried us toward the land, at ten the launches came and took off the remainder of our oil then we were close to land and tried to tack but missed and before we could wear round were close in shore but finally came off all right then the old man went ashore and we hauled, wash and painted and waited until six when a [illegible] boat came off and we were then off Good bye Fayal

Thursday Aug 4

At three in the morning shortened sail on account of wind, had a good breeze all day but nothing in sight.

Friday Aug 5th

Calms mostly all day although just at night came in sight of another island it was Terceira, were busy all day at work in the hold one sail in sight

Saturday Aug 6

Pleasant weather, ran along to the leeward of the island was busy setting up main and fore rigging a light S. W. wind

Sunday Aug 7th

Calm in the morning but had a fine breeze in the afternoon towards night the mate and second mate lowered for porpoises but could not get near enough to strike one which I was glad of although I would like to have some to burn for we have not had anything to burn but slush for a month

Journal on board

August 1870

Monday Aug 8th

Good weather, saw several merchant vessels in the afternoon lowered for grampuses without success, when we came on board we saw a sail running off for us it proved to be the whaling brig "Abbott Lawrence" of Fairhaven Capt. Cleaveland came on board so we have gammed at last. had a very pleasant time but of course it was something new

Tuesday Aug 9

Good weather with a light wind it almost seems to me as if I was on a visit for I have only to eat, help make sail and take it in. Came in sight of St. Marys and St Michaels island

Wednesday Aug 10

Fine weather saw the A Lawrence again and several other sails. also the islands no work to do this day

Thursday Aug 11

Had a jolly good rain storm this forenoon and when it cleared up we found ourselves close to St. Marys kept off a little and ran along to leeward of it

Friday Aug 12

Pleasant day, was cruising around by St. Mi's. at night all of the boats lowered for grampuses with our usual success

Saturday Aug 13

Good weather several islands in sight and two or three sails. lowered a boat and picked up a barrel of naththa and that completed our days work

Sunday Aug 14

Clear and calm in the morning in the afternoon it was squally. so we shortened sail. nothing to be seen

Bark Alfred Gibbs

August 1870

Monday Aug 15th

Fine weather with a light breeze. Several sails in sight and in the afternoon one run off for us it was the whaling schooner Albert Clarence of Provincetown Capt. Bowe 20 months out with 280 bbls. had a pleasant gamm

Tuesday Aug. 16th 1870

Good weather and a good breeze saw the A.C. off our lee quarter under full sail we were under double reefed topsails and she came up and at noon was a little off our lee bow but we made sail and at night she was nearly out of sight off our lee quarter

Wednesday Aug. 17

Good weather and several sails in sight. the only work was picking over potatoes A. Clarence in sight

Thursday Aug 18th

Another pleasant day to put down in the 'Journal' as it is called. Gammed the Albert Clarence in the afternoon Capt. Y— went on board

Friday August 19

Pleasant weather. took out some water and other things [illegible] This with making sail and taking it in completed our days labor. saw a spout that looked like sperm whale but it was a long ways off

Saturday Aug 20

Here is another week gone [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] anything that [illegible] [illegible] I think it will take some time any how it has been a pleasant one but there has been some [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] just begun to get used to working [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Sunday August 21st

Calm no [illegible] in sight but [illegible] [illegible] in the afternoon [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for whales and not see any [illegible] things [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] long will last

Journal on board

N.A.C. August 1870

Monday Aug 22

Good weather now and then we would have a little asleep on the water but nothing more was to be seen except the N.C. and we gammed her after four Oclock

Tuesday Aug 23

Pleasant, nothing in sight during the day neither was there any work going on was steering a course N.N.E.

Wednesday Aug. 24

Good weather in the forenoon but not so pleasant in the afternoon, we had to take in sail down to double reefed topsails

Thursday Aug 25

Had clear weather again this afternoon and we begin to think about Fayal again and our letters as we did not get any there the first time. I hope we shall not be disappointed

Friday Aug 26

Good weather and a good breeze one sail in sight and that a Merchantman

Saturday Aug 27

Good weather during the twenty four hours course S.W. nothing in sight but a merchant Bark saw a spout but could not tell what it was, got out our small stores and that completed our days work

Sunday Aug 28th

Becalmed again, it makes it seem dull to be in a calm and it has not been very lively at any time

Monday Aug. 29th

Another calm day, was busy getting onions ready to pickle some work and more pain, a disagreeable job to say the least, nothing in sight

Bark Alfred Gibbs

N.L.C. September 1870

Tuesday Aug 30th

Good weather course S. by E. nothing in sight

Wednesday Aug 21

Light winds but pleasant, such a real Summer's day but this is the last day of summer in my New England home

September 1870

Thursday Sep 1st

Nearly calm, nothing in sight but one sail, at night had a light breeze from S. W.

Friday ~~Aug~~ Sep 2nd

Fine weather with a fine breeze from the S. W. this is truly the "Dull monotony of a seafaring life" for there is not—excepting the sea and sky—a thing to be seen, and no work

Saturday Sep. 3rd

Fine weather and a good breeze from the S. W. was under main top-gallant sail, and at four saw Fayal and Pico far to windward

Sunday Sep. 4th

Had some rain in the morning and could just head for Fayal but the wind soon headed us off two sails in sight, no work

Monday Sep. 5

Very fine, but wind ahead I would really like to have a fair wind so we could hear from home I never was away so long before.

Tuesday September 6

A strong breeze and to take in everything but close reefed main topsail and fore staysail last night as I lay in my bunk asleep the [illegible] light was open and as a sea broke [illegible] against the [illegible] came in [illegible] the pleasant sensation of getting wet all over, [illegible] in Atlantic water [illegible]

Journal on board

S. A. C. September 1870

Wednesday Sep 7th

Came in at three in the morning it was rather thick until nine o'clock A.M. then we saw land ahead and at 11 sent a boat ashore and I was one of the crew before they chose a crew of Kanakas but they all got drunk and this time it was my good luck to get ashore and, although I did not fall in love with the place yet I would like very much to have liberty there. we came on board got a man Chas. Anthony and took him ashore to discharge on account of sickness. when we were pulling the Capt. on board in passing some rocks he told us to row in as he wanted to get one or two men as we neared the shore they were seen running from every direction but we picked out three took them on board and then we were gone

Thursday Sep. 8th

A good breeze and all sail set. and we soon left Fayal far behind, course S.E.

Friday Septem. 9

Fine, one sail in sight was busy putting things to rights making baskets for onions &c

Saturday Sep. 10

Very warm and pleasant and work going on. in the evening we gammed the schooner Catharine H. Cornell of Provincetown Capt. Cramer came on board she was nine months out with 70 bbls. sperm.

Sunday Sept 11

A squally morning. as it is about half of the time here. but it was pleasant before noon. begin to like quite well considering

Monday Sept. 12

Pleasant. one sail in sight a merchant-man. painted the anchors hooks &c

Bark Alfred Gibbs

A.S. September [illegible]

Tuesday Sept 3

Dull enough and still enough to satisfy any one, and no one could grow[illegible] about noise for there is none. That suits me to kill

Wednesday Sept 4

Another day I suppose but it was so very like yesterday that if it was not for our [illegible] of [illegible] today, I should doubt it. [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] a good breeze also

Thursday Sept 5

Pleasant nothing in sight nothing done

Friday S[illegible] 12

Had a good breeze we are now in the N. E. trades. this afternoon we lowered for blackfish and got one the blubber made [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] we can make [illegible] [illegible]

Saturday Sept 14

A [illegible] breeze [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] South [illegible] [illegible] last three or four days but I cannot [illegible] [illegible] out how much, nothing in sight

Sunday Sept 15

Pleasant with a good breeze from S. E. steering S. W. by W. [illegible] [illegible] "[illegible] [illegible]"

Monday Sept 17

The same course and the same weather in fact it was a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] day

Tuesday S[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] on [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Wednesday [illegible] [illegible]

Good [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] S. W. by W. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Journal on board
R. O.

SEPTEMBER 1870

Thursday Sept 22

Pleasant. we passed through feed of whale or red water I dont know the book name for it. saw a school of grampuses

Friday Sept 23

Good breeze course S. W. nothing in sight

Saturday Sept 24

Nearly calm, at ten called all hands for blackfish all of the boats lowered and the mate struck a good fish, a sail in sight

Sunday Sept 25th

Cloudy and thick, and dull we certainly felt, some of us trying to amuse ourselves with feeding seabirds on blackfish blubber which was not a bad sundays occupation if it had been done well but they were blubber tied on each end of a string and were made to fight for it

Monday Sept 26.

Blackfishing again but not a fish so contented ourselves boiling the one we caught Friday, good weather

Tuesday Sept 27

Light winds which are just as good for us set up foretopmast rigging and then lay around on deck smoking, chewing, and telling lies

Wednesday 28

What shall I write about how can I write anything. this must be an interesting book for any one to read I cant write give it up

Thursday Sept 29

Here I am trying it again tonight my subject is this: Cloudy day, in a whaleship. every thing going on nicely. made sail in the morning and took it in at night now if any body can make any thing out of that to interest I would like to read it

Bark Alfred Gibbs

A.O. October 187[illegible]

[illegible]

Was [illegible] [illegible] as long as [illegible] [illegible] house. Nice [illegible]

October 18[illegible]

[illegible] Oct 1st [illegible]

[illegible] both [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] Oct 2d [illegible]

A pleasant day [illegible] both men and men a jolly time and enjoyment for all

[illegible] Oct 3d

A pleasant day the [illegible] the better [illegible] [illegible] out post [illegible]

Tuesday Oct 4th

Was blackfishing this afternoon or chasing them but [illegible] blackfish for the [illegible]

Wednesday Oct 5

[illegible] birthday [illegible] [illegible]

Thursday Oct 6

[illegible] out had been [illegible] blackfishing [illegible] [illegible] "[illegible]"

Friday Oct 7th [illegible]

[illegible]

Saturday Oct 8th

[illegible] S.W. by W.

[illegible] weather

Journal on board

A.C. OCTOBER 1870

Sunday Oct 9th

A head wind if we want to go south Cruising and can't sail nothing to do but read and can't find anything to read I'd like to yarn

Monday Oct 10th

Set sail in the morning we made whole topsails and maintopgallant sail and took it in just after dinner after four Oclock set it again

Tuesday Oct 11th

Good breeze and it seemed to be the order of the day to stand by for a hand at learn nothing else was done, no great job

Wednesday Oct 12

S.W. course and a rattling breeze fun enough it might be for some but not for sailors [illegible] [illegible] Christians

Thursday Oct 13

A strong S.W. wind was under short sail saw something that looked like sperm whales Flukes but saw nothing after

Friday Oct 14th

Strong breeze had only doublereefed topsails and courses, just look at her see her go

Saturday Oct 15

Course S.W. by W. and that is about all that can be said of this day

Sunday Oct 16th

Set fore and main top gallant sail this morning and was sailing all over the ocean as near as we could chasing white water. finally kept our course again S.W. by W. half W. saw land at four Oclock it was Trinidad island short sail at night

Monday Oct 17th

Run close to land with the ship then lowered the starboard and waist boats and went fishing run close to shore saw a humpbacks and talked some of going on to him but only had a small bit of line in the boat and concluded we would

Bark Alfred Gibbs

A. S. October 1870

[illegible] [illegible] at [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and a half [illegible] [illegible] got on board at four o'clock and then stood S. by W.

Tuesday [illegible]

Fish for dinner. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Wednesday Oct. 19th

What shall I write about? that is the question I think I must [illegible] a week write once a week or once a month would be better

Thursday Oct 20

This is a day long to be remembered. how we did laugh at the [illegible] face of our [illegible] who walked up to the Capt. and told him we did not get enough [illegible] saw whales in the afternoon, crockery rattling

Friday October 21st

Our crockery rattled to-day but who cares let it rattle, when we have a N.E. wind and S.W. course let it [illegible], what's the odds when we are happy

Saturday Oct. 22 d 1870

Running and rattling yet. fine breeze from S.E. and feeling good hurra! for the coast of Patagonia

Sunday Oct. 23 d 1870

Running under double reefed topsails and going at a good rate [illegible] [illegible] rolling around [illegible] [illegible]

Monday Oct. 24th

Cabin [illegible] flying around the [illegible] [illegible] one got a [illegible] [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] how [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a boat to [illegible] [illegible] bottom [illegible] [illegible]

Tuesday Oct. 25

We must be getting south by the weather for [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Wednesday Oct. 26

Remember, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] my mind when my clothes [illegible] [illegible] and I [illegible] about half my clothes

Journal on board

November 1870

Thursday Oct 27

Got jogging on jigging on the [illegible] towards the whaling ground I suppose. but we will not drift there if it is a great distance. all under doublereefed topsails

Friday October. 28th

Squally through the day. nothing but finbacks in sight and no work going on

Saturday Oct 29

Good weather. saw humpback cow and calf which was quite a sight to me. saw other spouts but they were too far off to tell what they were

Sunday Oct. 30th

Nothing to greet the eyes from the masthead except humpbacks though the "Optics were extended" ever so far over the vast deep.

Monday Oct. 31st

Good weather in the morning but in the afternoon took in everything but close reefed topsails strong breeze almost a gale

November 1870

Tuesday Nov. 1st

In the track of merchantmen again. several of them in sight also likewise humpbacks ahead.

Wednesday Nov 2d

Calm. was at work in the after hold humpbacks showing themselves again to-day.

Thursday Nov. 3d

Good weather with a light breeze. at six [illegible] raised right whales off the lee beam the starboard and waist boats lowered and the mate struck a fish. we could not catch him to strike second boat so the starboard boat lowered and struck him [illegible] and handlances soon did their work and at ten had him alongside at four had him cut in started the works

Bark Alfred Gibbs

November 1870

Friday November 4th 71

Was boiling all day saw whales in the afternoon but it was thick and foggy and could not see a spout

Saturday November 5th

Calm in the morning finished boiling at about nine O'clock at the same time raised whales off our lee beam the larboard & waist boats lowered the whale began to run to leeward and gave us a long chase at last he hove to and the mate run on him and got none but got one iron in him fortunately he did not run any more and we took his line hauled up and put our irons in and let go the mates line we finished him without further trouble and had him alongside at [illegible] o'clock and had him cut in by 10. The whale we got the 3d was a 80 bbl. Two sails in sight in the afternoon

Sunday Nov. 6

Drizzly, foggy, rainy, and disagreeable especially for our work, stowing down. but we finished stowing down before noon and started the works nothing in sight but hump-backs

Monday Nov. 7th

At day this morning raised whales and sent boats larboard and waist chased to windward until they went out of sight then saw more to leeward and third mate struck a small whale he sunk when he was spouting thick blood. hauling him up and had him cut in at noon [illegible] [illegible]

Tuesday November 8th

Was boiling [illegible] of day and before noon raised whales [illegible] two boats lowered [illegible] could not see them [illegible] [illegible]

Wednesday Nov. 9th

Boiling [illegible] blowing [illegible] and [illegible] in sight

Journal on board
A. C. November 1870

Thursday Nov 10

A strong breeze yet, could not start the works yet, or boat until 1 o'clock P.M. three sails in sight. we are under close reefed main topsail

Friday Nov. 11th

Called all hands at six this morning and began stowing down finished at five

Saturday Nov. 12

Finished boiling [illegible], began this morning to scrape bone. at three this afternoon had to quit work and take in sail down to close reefs the last two whales made us 125 bbls.

Sunday Nov. 13th

Nothing to do but make and keep things secure for the wind is blowing some now

Monday Nov. 14th

A gale of wind hove to under mainspencer rainy and cold, one sail in sight

Tuesday Nov. 15

Good weather finished scraping bone this afternoon and [illegible] enough we [illegible] to [illegible] it [illegible] the way. one sail in sight

Wednesday Nov 16

Stowed down the remainder of the oil and [illegible] stowed down 250 bbls. making us 375 all told. bent a new fore staysail the old [illegible] having been [illegible] from the [illegible]

Thursday Nov. 17th

A nice breeze and fore and main topgallant sails [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in the afternoon [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a few [illegible] [illegible] on the deck.

Friday Nov. 18th

[illegible] and [illegible] by the [illegible], in the afternoon a [illegible] came on so quickly that it was necessary to call all hands and we soon had her [illegible] under close reefed topsails

Bark Alfred Gibbs

A.C. November 1870

Saturday Nov. 19th

Calm in the morning, and in fact not much wind in any part of the day. nothing in sight

Sunday Nov. 20th

I think we must be bound round Cape Horn our course is S.W. and all said at, hear much talk. there is about C. Horn now, what a dangerous place it is &c. each one of the [illegible] sailors [illegible] tell bigger lies(?) than the others

Monday Nov. 21st

Good weather, [illegible] and [illegible], the good Bark is plowing her way towards the Horn

Tuesday November 22

Nearly calm for the first three hours after that we had a nice breeze. course S.W. nothing in sight

[illegible] Nov. 23

Such a day as this we have had, scrubbing with [illegible] the guns on the [illegible] they are [illegible] thick. but salt water and sand did their duty and now the [illegible] course S.W.

Thursday Nov. 24

[illegible] South [illegible]

Friday Nov. 25 1870

One [illegible] the mast [illegible] same course nothing in sight

Saturday Nov. 26

Good weather, [illegible]

Sunday Nov. 27

[illegible]

Monday Nov. 28

[illegible]

Journal on board

A.C. December 1870

Tuesday Nov. 29th

Good weather nothing in sight but finbacks and humpbacks, and they are not what we are looking for, "colder it grows and colder"

Wednesday Nov. 30

Course south, and but little moving power

December 1870

Thursday Dec 1st

About the same strong, topgallantsails set a leading wind course, S. by W. nothing in sight

Friday Dec. 2d

A gale of wind. was hove to under closereefed maintopsail, cloudy thick and cold nothing in sight

Saturday Dec. 3

A strong breeze in the morning. a school of killers came along close to the ship. and the mate succeeded in killing one from the ship but we did not stop to pick him up, seals and penguins in great abundance, and a lonely noise the latter makes

Sunday Dec. 4th

Had a fair wind and enough of it Staten Land with its snowcapped peaks in sight. two sail merchantmen one off each quarter seemed inclined to sail with us. they had royals set and we double reefed topsails. when they came up with us we set maintop gallantsail and left them astern for another until we had to clew up and clew down soon had a gale of wind our maintopsail and forestaysail was badly split, sent it down at night and sent up a new one, squalls of rain and hail were frequent

Monday Dec. 6th

Real Cape Horn weather I suppose. one hour blowing a gale and the next a calm not very favorable to whaling ground in the Pacific, especially when the wind is ahead when we have any

Bark Alfred Gibbs

A.L. December 18[illegible]

Tuesday Dec 6th

We [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] uncomfortable [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in sight

Wednesday Dec 7th

The morning [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Thursday Dec 8th

A gale of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Friday December 9th

[illegible] [illegible], nothing in sight

Saturday Dec 10th

A fair [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] N. E. [illegible] [illegible] soon came [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Sunday Dec 11

[illegible] set [illegible] this morning had a [illegible] [illegible] and so much of it [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] nothing in sight [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Monday Dec 12

Every [illegible] this morning but in the afternoon had a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], a Dutch bark, passed us, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Tuesday Dec 13

The usual [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] any [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] good before [illegible]

[illegible] is all that can be said [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] which [illegible] [illegible] would be [illegible] to suppose

Wednesday 14

Fine weather the whole day and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] which were N. by E. and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] water

Journal on board

P. O. December 1870

Thursday Dec 15

All sail out and nice headway we are making with three sail to keep us company full number of men now sent to the mast head which is only four

Friday Dec. 17th

Calm until sunset then had a light breeze from the South course. W. by South

Saturday Dec. 18th

A good breeze and we carried all sail until midnight and then took in our light sails course W by N. some big sailing done today

Sunday Dec. 18

Put all sail on again this morning and the ship sailed as if she was as glad as we to get away from such weather as we have been having. two ships were left far astern today their course the same as ours N. W. by W.

Monday Dec 19.

Thick fog set in this morning so we were unable to discern objects a ship's length ahead were under short sail during the day.

Tuesday Dec. 20

Fog holds on yet although not so dense two sails in sight a beautiful bark beat us both to look and sailing qualities

Wednesday Dec 21

I think we must be on the whaling ground for we have a nice South wind but are on the Starboard tack under short sail

Thursday Dec 22

I must have been wrong in my supposition for today we are running to the North again. this is a beautiful book write something one day and contradict it the next.

Bark Alfred Gibbs

January 1871

Friday Dec. 23rd 70

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] been used to shake out reef [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Saturday Dec. [illegible]

Squally, and rainy, cold, and disagreeable weather. one sail in sight. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] folks are having in America. [illegible] [illegible]

Christmas [illegible]

Good weather and a fair wind. no sound [illegible] [illegible] save the sailors pacing the deck each one [illegible] occupied with his own thoughts, [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible]

Monday Dec. 26th

[illegible] this morning [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] again a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] thing to be seen

Tuesday Dec. 27th

This day began cloudy, foggy but [illegible] [illegible] sunshine and a [illegible] breeze [illegible] thing in sight

Wednesday Dec. 28th

Fine weather and a fair wind. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a thing to be seen [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] would be if we could [illegible] up and go home

Thursday Dec. 29th

Still fine, [illegible] on our course [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. nothing to be seen and [illegible] [illegible]

Friday Dec. 30th

Pleasant, a few [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] were the only thing to be seen [illegible] [illegible] put a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] been [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] think it time [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] gone [illegible] [illegible]

Saturday Dec. 31st

Massafuera came in sight this forenoon after [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] got fresh meat in the shape of a porpoise

January 1871

Sunday Jan 1st

Good weather nothing in sight nothing [illegible] so begins the [illegible] of 71

S. P. O. January 1871

Monday Jan 2nd 1871

The same dull rounds that we usually have on whaling ground, nothing in sight

Tuesday Jan 3rd

Pleasant weather, at noon saw two whalers we ran off and spoke the Morning Star of New Bedford Capt. Allen 28 months out with 700 bbls. soon the Cornelia came down and Capt Shiverick came on board 16 – 25 mo's out with 1150

Wednesday Jan 4th

Thick weather with a gale of wind hove to under close reefed topsails nothing in sight

Thursday Jan 5th

Strong breeze from South [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] S. in sight

Friday Jan 6

A strong breeze yet or after the first [illegible] hours the remainder of the day was calm and rainy [illegible] of this in the [illegible] of [illegible] weather?

Saturday Jan 7th

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] that is [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in the afternoon [illegible] the [illegible] of Valparaiso

Sunday Jan 8th

[illegible] gam in this morning with [illegible] and left in their boat. but before noon [illegible] out of sight and then we are alone again

Monday Jan 9

Dull times, no work nor anything for amusement unless you like to read and then if you can find anything you will be busy. nothing in sight except grampuses porpoises &c

Tuesday Jan 10th

Another dull day. set courses and topsails this morning and took them in at night. [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the wings

Barque Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. January 1870

Wednesday Jan 1st

Good weather again having changed the starboard [illegible] for one in the hand, and then completed the [illegible] of the day but there is not thought that 'revival' in fact no thoughts are required [illegible] that is worth putting on the book

Thursday Jan 2

[illegible] [illegible] in sight in the afternoon gammed the Bk Palmetto of New Bedford Capt Robinson came on board

Friday January 3

Fine weather. [illegible] in sight [illegible] the waist and bow boats lowered and went [illegible] our boat - the waist [illegible] about one hour the remainder of [illegible] we were running around on shore. took a [illegible] of [illegible] in the boat and at five we were on board, but few families live on the island [illegible] Reynolds and Andrew Hicks in sight the [illegible] of N.B. the [illegible] of Westport

Saturday Jan 4th

Good weather wind on the starboard tack [illegible] [illegible] then got sight of and gammed the [illegible] Capt. Hamblin, [illegible] months out [illegible]

Sunday Jan 5

A strong breeze [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible]

Monday Jan 6

The same kind of weather [illegible] [illegible] night [illegible] [illegible] so [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and good weather [illegible] [illegible]

Tuesday Jan 7

[illegible] [illegible] in the afternoon the [illegible] nothing in sight. [illegible] scratched [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] made [illegible]

Journal on board

S.P.O. January 185[illegible]

Wednesday Jan 18

Calm, the [illegible] boats chasing blackfish and two other sail in sight also humpbacks

Thursday Jan 19

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the sail even flapping down, the gaff slapping lazily against the mast. all seem to put one in an uncomfortable state of mind especially if there is [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] humpbacks blow

Friday Jan 20

Nothing or no kind of weather that I have seen or see is worse than a calm and here we are becalmed again [illegible] A. Hix off the lee bow

Saturday Jan 21

[illegible] cut through it and a light wind to fan makes it pleasant indeed

Sunday Jan 22

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] handsome craft with royals out she was a good sight

Monday Jan 23d

Strong breeze in the morning, was hove to. finbacks humpbacks porpoises &c spoke [illegible]

Tuesday Jan 24th

Another calm day. yesterday we could with difficulty keep [illegible] [illegible] it is [illegible] [illegible] out to keep cool. one sail in sight

Wednesday 25

Turned up the larboard boat and fixed [illegible] from the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] as [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Bark Alfred Gibbs

[illegible] January 18[illegible]

Thursday Jan 26th

A pleasant day. [illegible] in sight. [illegible] gamming, and most of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] in sight

Friday Jan 27th

A gale of wind. nothing in sight. was hove to under close reefed maintopsail.

Tuesday Jan 2[illegible]

This month has been. probably. a fair sample of Chili weather. three or four days calm and three days a gale of wind such as is [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] usual to us in such weather, a close reefed maintopsail [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] out. these gales will be just the thing when we begin to [illegible] if we are ever allowed to. which is

Sunday Jan 2[illegible]

Hove to the same wind and the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] on the same tack. finally there is a great deal of [illegible] in the business [illegible] [illegible] in this [illegible] [illegible]

Monday Jan 30th

A strong breeze yet. but [illegible] a little more sail on and set her [illegible](?) nothing in sight and the weather [illegible] [illegible]. This makes me think of the monotonous life I have heard so much of in whaleships but [illegible] to me the least pleasant to me

Friday Jan [illegible]

Fine weather [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] at noon [illegible] in sight [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] out of sight [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] down to [illegible]

Journal on board

S. P. C. February 1871

Wednesday Feb 1st

Good day & a pleasant one. Land in sight this morning Massafuero situated 90 miles West from Juan. Humpbacks and one sail in sight

Thursday 2d

Ran in close to land and the waist and bow boats went fishing but did not are much better than a fishermans luck the island is inhabited by a few families from Chili. our fishing wound up with a gamm with the Samuel Thomas

Friday Feb 3d

Fine weather, course west and "merrily sailed we" nothing in sight

Saturday 4th

Pleasant weather and a good breeze course West. one sail in sight of course

Sunday Feb 5th

Running and a good breeze we had course West. nothing unusual occurred or transpired or expired worthy of note paper

Monday Feb 6

One of those foggy dull drizzly disagreeable days. I tell so much about them and describe them so finely that any one could tell it was not pleasant or was I dont know which

Tuesday Feb 7

Fine weather with a light breeze. set all sail this morning and stood full and bye headed N. E. nothing in sight

Wednesday Feb 8

Good weather. but not much wind course East. painted boats and a few other little jobs done preparatory to going in port I should think

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. February 1871

Thursday Feb. 9th

A strong breeze and rather cold. at one Oclock squared the yards and spoke the Virginia Marks of Valparaiso, Capt. Hyatt. the V. M. was formerly the Bird of the Wave of N. B.

Friday Feb. 10th

Double reefed topsails seems to be the go now. two sails in sight and land [illegible]

Saturday Feb 11th

Fine weather this afternoon a [illegible] was seen from the masthead and the [illegible] [illegible] the pleasure of [illegible] [illegible] and then [illegible] by seeing a [illegible] [illegible] "[illegible]" and [illegible] to see three boats coming from another ship [illegible] to the windward [illegible] gamming with a [illegible] with the Maggie Hall of Valparaiso Capt. Keath came on board.

Sunday Feb. 12th

Light winds from South, [illegible] this morning -[illegible]- [illegible] sperm whale [illegible] of the ship [illegible] boats lowered and [illegible] the [illegible] struck him and [illegible] three boats [illegible] "fin out" [illegible] close to [illegible] then they were too late [illegible]. How much better [illegible] this book looks [illegible]

Monday Feb 13

[illegible] started the [illegible] had good weather for [illegible] consequently did a good [illegible] and [illegible] with the [illegible] of a [illegible] [illegible] than [illegible] [illegible]

Journal on board

February 1871

Tuesday Feb. 14th

Fine weather boiled all day. the head made 42 bbls oil nothing in sight

Wednesday Feb. 15

Favored we surely have been with good weather with this oil or to take care of it and finished boiling today so much more to add up

Thursday Feb.

Pleasant with a strong breeze. our course was N. N. E. the jaw of that whale was 16 ft. 9 in. in length. gammed the Samuel Thomas

Friday Feb. 17th

Stowed down the oil this forenoon and at 11 o'clock spoke the Black Eagle Capt Swain. the whale stowed down 97 bbls. so we have 455 bbls towards 800. scrubbed ship

Saturday Feb. 18

Dullness again prevails it seems so after we get through a fare of oil because there is no more confusion and bustling about.

Sunday Feb. 19th

Mozambique has not yet disappeared from view. three sails in sight we were under close reefed topsails a stiff breeze blowing.

Monday Feb. 20

Fine weather with a light breeze. was on the starboard tack heading East saw a school of Blackfish and two or three sails.

Tuesday Feb. 21

Good weather and a good breeze was heading East under double reefed topsails and courses two sails in sight, there is eight days doings set down on this page and if they are such as can be made anything of I never call myself foolish. but whoever reads it will save me the pain of any [illegible] censure

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.C. February 187

Wednesday Feb 22nd

Squally weather. [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] S.C. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Humboldt [illegible] [illegible]

Thursday Feb 23

Weather [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] course E.S.E. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Friday Feb 24th

Fine weather with a light breeze [illegible] all sail set. in the morning picked up a [illegible] [illegible] boat [illegible] [illegible] probably been carried away by [illegible] or something else course E.S.E.

Saturday Feb 25th

Fine weather and a light breeze course E.S.E. [illegible] run out the [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for a week [illegible] a [illegible] whale but none [illegible] is no more.

Sunday Feb 26th

Good weather with a light breeze course S.E. by E. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] by the way we are [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Monday Feb 27th

Good weather was [illegible] on the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] course [illegible] E.S.E. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Tuesday Feb 28th

Good weather with a light breeze [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] course E.S.E. [illegible]

ournal on board

In Port March 1871

Wednesday Mar. 1st

Fine weather with a light breeze. was standing sail and off at noon had a strong breeze and steered N.E. saw grampuses and humpbacks at four o'clock land was in sight the [illegible] looked for land Chili no sail taken in

Thursday Mar 2d

Calm until noon then had a light south breeze which carried us nearly in the bay of Talcahuano one sail astern of us probably bound in like ourselves. calm at night

Friday Mar 3d

Hauled up cable this morning the first thing after making sail. had a light breeze from five until eight then a calm until eleven then had a fine, fair wind until we got to the mouth of the bay then it was strong but we dropped anchor at about four o'clock furled every thing and had [illegible] on [illegible] at five there was six American whalers [illegible] and one American man-of-war the St. Mary

Saturday Mar 4th

Scrubbed ship in the morning preparatory to painting. and this completed our days work and Port watch went ashore at night to stay until 1 o'clock well pleased with Talcahuano or at least they were pleased with something if actions are anything to go by

Sunday Mar 5th

Starboard watch ashore on liberty today and I for one have seen almost enough of Talcahuano nothing but drunkenness and debauching, some poor miserable wretches put in the calaboose some of them our own ships crew, and for the place itself any one that would want to look it over more than an hour I could not fancy [illegible] in the first day on shore [illegible] ten months [illegible] $1.50

Bark Alfred Gibbs

In Port March 1871

Monday March 6th

We were to be on board at daylight this morning but only two were there at [illegible] me to say that I was one of them for my liberty will not now be stopped.
Hauled the ship further in towards the pier and crazy Dutchy was discharged so six of our men have left us. Port watch ashore tonight.

Tuesday March 7th

Bad weather and no go for work consequently but little was done two men were caught last night and [illegible] of Starboard watch ashore.

Wednesday Mar 8th

Rainy the greater part of the day but a little painting was done and the afternoon oil was hoisted on deck and coopered. Port watch ashore.

Thursday Mar. 9th

A most unseasonable rain storm and cold and a good time for all cooks and stewards of course neglect. There is work that must be done. yarning between decks.

Friday March 10th

In the morning hoisted the oil over the [illegible] 13th [illegible] [illegible] some [illegible] painted the remainder of the day. Port watch ashore.

Saturday Mar. 11th

Bumped [illegible] [illegible] were and carried on board the French [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Sunday March 12th

The most quiet day I have passed since leaving home. The [illegible] watch was ashore a day on liberty [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] on the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] as soon as the next days work.

Journal on board

In Port March 18[illegible]

Monday Mar. 13th

Three libertymen came off this morning [illegible] in the time, but the others came off soon after except two [illegible] and a [illegible]. Said Bin Dublin sailed for home today no shore tonight on account of [illegible] to [illegible] in the [illegible] tomorrow

Tuesday Mar. 14th

Stowed casks for water today a [illegible] on [illegible] so no shore for us. give her a little more chain and let her ride.

Wednesday Mar 15

Neither work or play going on today and it is dull enough. and I think we all feel about twice as lazy as out to sea
Starboard watch ashore at night

Thursday Mar. 16

No work today either. the Bk Martha sailed and the Mary & Susan came in both of New Bedford. M & S is six months out 240 bbls. watch ashore tonight

Friday March 17th

Another days liberty for the starboard watch and I dont think I enjoyed myself much better than the first day. Bk Greyhound of N. B. came in today 12 mos. out 1050 bbls

Saturday Mar 18th

The Port watch now on shore on liberty the watch on duty did nothing a Central American brig came in in the forenoon

Sunday Mar 19th

Our watch ashore on liberty again three or four of us took a trip over the hills but did not see anything that would pay us for our walk and walking is not so easy as it was before we came on board

Bk Alfred Gibbs

March 187

Monday March 20th

The Larboard watch ashore on liberty again the watch on duty did nothing but had an [illegible] kind of a seine just for amusement

Tuesday Mar 21st

Had another liberty day probably the last we [illegible] have, had a walk in another direction but it looks the same as all places around here, [illegible] [illegible] straw and sand [illegible] [illegible] that could be seen and [illegible] [illegible]

Wednesday Mar 22

Port watch ashore on liberty a boats crew of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Quahogs [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. A Chilean [illegible] came in and discoursed some excellent music at least it sounded so to us

Thursday Mar 23

A Norther, but not very bad weather took water what the water boat [illegible] could carry the starboard watch ashore again at night

Friday Mar 24

A Norther blowing in earnest. took water and that finished our days work no watch ashore

Saturday Mar 25

Dull. a North wind [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible]. and [illegible] in a [illegible]

Sunday Mar 26

Good weather in the afternoon and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] then sent a boat ashore but no watch

Monday Mar 27

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] on board, and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] were done [illegible] place as this. Port watch ashore

Journal on board

S. P. C. April 1871

Tuesday March 28th

Took wood, potatoes and the remaining casks were filled with water, and when night come - or rather four O'clock - the watch went

Wednesday Mar 29

Were busy taking small stores on board such as onions, pumpkins, cabbages, beets, pigs, chickens &c &c at night the Port watch went ashore

Thursday Mar. 30

Got everything ready to sail. the starboard anchor weighed. shore boat stowed away, but the wind came out ahead so we are here yet Bks. Amelia, Roman, and B. Colonel came in today Starboard watch ashore again

Friday Mar 31st

Calm and warm enough to make any one feel lazy. Morning Star came in this afternoon had taken 250 bbls since we [illegible]

April 1871

Saturday Apr. 1st

Another Norther has probably set in, for at least we have a N. wind today. how much longer shall we be compelled to lay here in this land and water of fleas?

Sunday April 2d

Fine weather and a fair wind but not a move made we. the John Carver sailed today

Monday April 3d

This morning we were - or I was waked up by a running and tramping on deck. three men were trying to run off but their canoe overturned [illegible] of course caught. Cruisers came on board. hove up anchor and now we are far far from the land of fleas. [illegible] prevails.

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P. April 1871

Tuesday April 4th

A strong breeze was bore to under close reefed main topsail. Gammed the [illegible] of [illegible] had just taken 80 bbls. [illegible] but could not [illegible]

Wednesday April 5th

Hove to under close reefed main topsail [illegible] in [illegible] our [illegible] [illegible] &c

Thursday April 6th

Wore ship this afternoon but not a bit of wind did it at [illegible] to [illegible] it [illegible] [illegible] in, but it did not give us oil or earn us anything

Friday April 7th

Good weather with a light breeze, [illegible] sail in sight and both of them [illegible] at [illegible] we gammed one the Bk Mary [illegible] 27 months out with 800 bbls. oil

Saturday April 8th

A light breeze from the South [illegible] all we did was to tack ship three or four times. a real pleasant day in April

Sunday April 9th

A calm [illegible] enough to [illegible] and nothing to see except a school of Blackfish and one [illegible]

Monday April 10th

Good weather with a light breeze from the South nothing was seen except [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] nothing to see

Tuesday April 11th

[illegible] all [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Rise in the morning [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Journal on board

S.P.O. April 1871

Tuesday Apr. 25

Good weather. nothing in sight except humpbacks. and one or two whalers

Wednesday Apr 26

Good weather; the waist and bow boats went fishing. and for the first time we caught something that paid us for going they were cray-fish something like a lobster both in taste and looks, saw a spout but what it was

Thursday Apr 27

A strong breeze we were on the starboard tack with all sail set, quite a number of vessels in sight most of them whalers like ourselves, there must be some miserable men out here if they are anyway manned as this one is and it is not to be wondered at if some of them choose for their epitaph the single word "Miserrimus"

Friday Apr 28th

Good weather grampuses porpoises and humpbacks around or blow just as you like with occasionally a sperm whale I wish one would come along now

Saturday Apr 29

Good weather: a light breeze from the South in short it is real homesick weather nothing to see and nothing to do

Sunday Apr 30

This day has been quite the opposite of yesterday pleasant a light breeze and all sail out or as much as we generally carry in good weather whole topsails and main top gallant sail and to finish the day we gammed the Bk. Rainbow of New Bedford six months out and nothing that will pass for oil. so ends this day and month

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S. P. O. May 1871

Monday May 1st

Good weather with a light breeze not more [illegible] than a dozen sails in sight so is it to be wondered at that we gammed the Rainbow

Tuesday May 2d

This morning found us in the midst of them and we apparently sick of gamming made sail and went out of them and then had to come down to double reefed top sails.

Wednesday May 3d

Wind blew a gale [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] reefed main topsail nothing in sight but two sails. a little [illegible] this morning a few small

Thursday May 4

A strong breeze and a good number of "blubber hunters" in sight this afternoon gammed the Edward Everett of New Bedford 18 mos. 400 bbls. Capt Weir came on board

Friday May 5th

Gamming seems to be fashionable now that is all we have done today to gam the Palmetto and if we had not done that we would do nothing

Saturday May 6th

Good weather, a light breeze from the South several sails in sight saw the Palmetto [illegible] [illegible] in the afternoon no work going on

Sunday May 7th

A very pleasant day. in the afternoon gammed the Palmetto and had a real good respectable gamm. several other whalers in sight

Monday May 8th

Calm. several whalers in sight. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] mounted on another [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] not [illegible] is to be wondered [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Journal on board

S. P. O. May 1871

Tuesday May 9th

Calm. whaleships and ships of merchandise are sailing around or trying to and probably would could they get a breeze

Wednesday May 10th

Nearly calm in the morning but in the afternoon our camp was broken up a strong breeze springing up and the crowd dispersed and here we are now alone upon the waste of waters

Thursday May 11

Here we again today under close reefed main top-sail and more whalers and merchant ships in sight also grampuses porpoises &c

Friday May 12th

A gale of wind. and quite a number of sails in sight. yet. Massafuero in sight

Saturday May 13

Good or better weather than it has been gammed the Bark Falcon Capt. Allen this afternoon the F— is "homeward bound." that joyful sound" land in sight

Sunday May 14

A pleasant day. but no pleasant signs of more oil were seen to-day. sailed by the course was N. N. E. nothing in sight

Monday May 15

Good weather. it was one of those warm calms especially adapted to sewing sail and an ample share of it we have to do Nothing in sight but Massafuera

Tuesday May 16

Good weather in the morning but had a gale of wind at night. Juan Fernandez was in sight. we sailed by it to the North of it no work nothing to see from [illegible]

Bark Alfred Gibbs

May 1871

Wednesday May 17th

Pleasant weather [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] night and nothing seen except [illegible]

Thursday May 18

A light breeze and pleasant weather [illegible] a real American May day and we [illegible] it as much as [illegible], no work for us

Friday May 19th

Good weather. nothing in sight except [illegible] and the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and almost any one would enjoy it

Saturday May 20

Nearly calm all day. at 4 PM [illegible] saw a [illegible] breach [illegible] after a [illegible]. but it was a long way off and not wind to get there. so it goes and [illegible] begin to think our luck has changed

Sunday May 21st

Wind blew a gale this morning. was hove to under close reefed main topsail. in the afternoon the wind was the most violent. although the boats were hoisted up on the highest [illegible] the bow boat was rolled over and stove a [illegible] night for sailors. I have all night in

Monday May 22

A continuation of the same only a little different [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] before [illegible] South. squall of hail and rain were [illegible] hove to again to night. the wind being low

Tuesday May 23

Running again today. a strong breeze and course South. nothing in sight

Wednesday May 24

Good weather and other [illegible] no work going on except fixing the bow boat that was stove [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Journal on board

S. P. C. May 1871

Thursday May 25

Good weather a light breeze from the South in the afternoon saw good looking spouts to windward but what good are they to us with no wind to get there?

Friday May 26th

Good weather one sail in sight no work and nothing to see. a light south wind

Saturday May 27

These are the changes of weather only written in this book. today we are hove to under a close reefed main topsail in a gale of wind

Sunday May 28

[illegible] comfort do we have today reading for by the time we get interested in a book it has to be put aside and poor Jack must crawl under cover or stand exposed to biting squalls of rain and hail and he thinks himself in luck if he does not have to mount up aloft such is the life of a sailor "Oh! what ample share, of toil and care we whalemen undergo"

Monday May 29

And today we have a gale of wind. still duty is imperative. it must be done rain or shine blow high or blow low nothing to reward our labor except the sight of a few humpbacks and porpoises

Tuesday May 30th

Wind was high until noon when it began to rain, rained until night. then we made sail but a calm it was

Wednesday May

Good weather. fins. finbacks, [illegible], and spout-holes in sight but they did not belong to sperm whales

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. June 1871

Thursday June 1st

Nearly calm and rainy. humpbacks finbacks porpoises and other northwest-ones. [illegible] out a pig we had kill in the afternoon

Friday June 2nd

It was a fine morning in June and we were going along merrily on the Port tack with a good crowd of canvas for us to carry. but before noon we came down to double reefs

Saturday June 3rd

This morning the wind blew a gale and now it is calm. this afternoon from the lower main hold the work came. also the [illegible]

Sunday June 4th

A calm with nothing in sight. a dark day although the sun shone brightly

Monday June 5th

A calm. we have carried sail now for three days. what can such work mean? one more such a day as this and the sticks will go. if they do I shudder at the thought of such a thing

Tuesday June 6

A strong breeze. we were hove to under double reefed topsails. I did not think we could carry so much sail a great while longer

Wednesday 7th

Nearly calm two merchant ships in sight this is much more pleasant for a change than gamming 'todos tiempo' as the Spanish say

Thursday June 8th

This morning it was squally. now it is calm as we are bold now as in the calms all sail set. Merchant ships and blackfish in sight

Friday June 9th

Good weather a light breeze from the South finbacks humpbacks &c in sight. began overhauling [illegible]

Journal on board

S. P. O. June 1871

Saturday June 10th
Good weather nothing in sight. sent down the maintopsail for repairs course N. by E.

Sunday June 11th
Squally and raining in the fornoon but good weather in the afternoon. saw land it was Moreno head on the coast of Chili

Monday June 12
Tobacco day. today and what clouds of smoke encircles every sailors head about this time "the loftiest peaks" of our newly discovered land are "wrapt in clouds and snow"

Tuesday June 13th
Good weather. was on the Starboard tack heading for the land. was sewing patches on the foresail one sail in sight. looks something like a whaler

Wednesday June 14
Good weather. was close in to the land nothing in sight except a steamer. which came close to us she was a Pharantis loaded with passengers.

Thursday June 15
Nearly calm. lowered this morning for a sword-fish and this afternoon for a gam gammed the Bk Virginia Marks of Valparaiso Capt. Hyatt, 22 days from Valparaiso

Friday June 16th
Rather a hard looking country this. if the bottom of the sea in this place looks no better I would not give much for all the sperm whales that will be caught here

Saturday June 17th
Good weather nothing in sight. but the land made sail this morning and this night took it in again no work except overhauling blocks

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S. P. O. June 1st

Sunday June 18

Calm or nearly so not [illegible] in sight this seems much different here than further South much summer of course and less wind, certainly

Monday June 19

Good weather and some are turning [illegible] as though we were bound home, well something ought to be done to occupy the mind for "An idle man's brain is the devil's workshop"

Tuesday June 20th

Nothing for excitement came along, and as it was calm, we could not keep up with him good weather, so much for Tuesday June 20th

Wednesday June 21st

The same old story although there was [illegible] night quite an addition to our family a sow had seven pigs and some sailors say that is what we came down here for, that tells.

Thursday June 22

Good weather of all the doings and ways to bring up pigs I think a sailor's the worst for it but then perhaps they are not all alike, I have a good mind to give a description of it in full, but [illegible] I had not

Friday June 23

Good weather: nothing in sight, today the pigs were all tumbled down in the [illegible] among rigging, casks, barrels chains &c. [illegible] we now left out of seven so much for a [illegible] story but this was more than meaning one

Saturday June 24th

Excitement today [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] the cause of it all hands were called at 1 o'clock and all of the boats lowered after the [illegible] and going through the [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] we managed to save three of them some how or [illegible] [illegible]

Journal on board

S. P. C. June 1871

Sunday June 25th

Nearly calm. finished cutting blubber this morning scrubbed ship and then our days work was done. one sail in sight

Monday June 26

Started the tryworks this morning and boiled out nine barrels of oil. in the afternoon gammed the Bk Martha of New Bedford Capt. Gaitland

Tuesday June 27th

Good weather, one sail in sight, no work. a sore thumb and other troubles of body and mind too numerous to mention

Wednesday June 28

I have not written for many days and so must write as nearly as I can what "those days" produced Wednesday June 28th was pleasant weather I could not write for a sore thumb

Thursday June 29

The strongest breeze we have had since we have been down here, was under double reefed topsails. nothing in sight. not a drop of sperm oil before we get farther to windward or Southward, so I prophesy and so do others. this has been beautiful weather for taking oil.

Friday June 30th

Good weather two sails in sight one a merchant schooner the other the Martha at two O'clock raised a school of black-fish and accordingly all hands were called and the second mate struck a good fish and the fourth mate struck another so you see we got two blackfish big business this, now we have taken probably 10 bbls of paltry blackfish.

Bark Alfred Gibbs

[illegible] July 1871

Saturday July 1st

A fine day. nothing in sight except the [illegible] bark Martha. and we gammed her in the afternoon. and a jolly time had we

Sunday July 2nd

A light wind, and very pleasant. we found amusement this morning in catching a few of mackerel that were playing round the ship we lowered three lines for several fish but not a [illegible]-fish for us.

Monday July 3d

Good weather boiled out the blackfish oil that we caught Friday. one sail in sight and numerous head. finbacks humpbacks &c

Tuesday July 4th

This day was much more pleasant to me than the last fourth of July. (if my memory serves me right and I think she does" I had a tooth that was troublesome to say the least blackfish humpbacks &c &c in sight

Wednesday July 5th

Good weather and nearly calm. nothing done a- nothing in sight except the supposed Martha and humpbacks, finbacks porpoises &c

Thursday July 6th

"The sea and the billows that sink with the wave
Roll billows cradle in blue
Thus man in the ages now old and white
Was ever like man in the [illegible]"

Friday July 7th

Nearly calm. nothing [illegible] in sight. the day passed without excitement but after dark the Cabin boy Frank fell overboard. luckily the ship was lying still and although he was encumbered with his clothes he was hauled in without much trouble.

Journal on board

July 1871

Saturday Jul. 8th

Gammed the Bark Martha today and that is enough said. nothing in sea

Sunday Jul. 9th

Not much wind and nothing in sight except the Martha. cloudy and warm a good day to transplant cabbages, turnips &c

Monday Jul. 10th

Had everything set but the mainsail the Martha to windward of us. and likely to keep there unless the wind changes

Tuesday July 11

Good weather, and dull enough, to suit any that likes quiet. I hope the time is not far distant when we shall get where there will be now and then a whale

Wednesday Jul. 12

Today we have a strong breeze. nothing in sight. no work and nothing to hear except the wind whistling through the rigging

Thursday 13

A fine day this: for Jul. 13th Thursday I dont know what is meant by— "The better the day the better the deed"

Friday Jul. 14th

It is or seems to me a foolish idea this writing so much and showing what thy writer must have been. but then "I cant"—and that is a word that never crossed the Atlantic or raised an ear of corn— while as well as I have seen. and who said I could,

Saturday Jul. 15

Nearly calm. Blackfish only in sight

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S. P. O. July 1871

Sunday July 16th

A pleasant day a light breeze from the South to ruffle the waters of the broad Pacific in the afternoon gammed the Martha

Monday July 17th

This day brought [illegible] distance of our departure from our good haven as it has been [illegible] Head as the weather has been so much better here than off Massafuera or St [illegible] but we are now planning our way to windward

Tuesday July 18th

Good weather but a strange [illegible] than we have had for many days the water of [illegible] land has disappeared [illegible] and [illegible] I know nothing about

Wednesday July 19

A strong breeze we were under double reefed topsails all day nothing in sight

Thursday July 20th

Strong breeze nothing in sight our [illegible] furnished material for scrimshawing and all hands are busy working it up [illegible] employed

Friday July 21st

A strong breeze were under double reefed topsails nothing in sight and no work of any kind

Saturday July 22

Plenty of wind nothing in sight were busy the greater part of the day getting out water [illegible] beef and other edibles and drinks as only one drink we have good water

Sunday July 23

Good weather [illegible] in the [illegible] we need for the better day and [illegible] [illegible] water [illegible] and had to [illegible]

Journal on board

S. P. O. July 1871

Monday July 24th

Good weather with a strong breeze and pretty cold for July: nothing in sight

Tuesday July 25th

Strong wind but a pleasant day for all that, such days pass swiftly and pleasantly it is now nearly four months since we left port yet it seems as a week. nothing in sight

Wednesday July 26

A strong breeze. about the same old story, boobys and other indications of land although no berries have yet been seen

Thursday July 27

Fine weather: land in sight St. Felix set the main top gallant sail this morning and have done some good sailing St. Felix is uninhabited

Friday July 28

This morning we was fifteen or twenty miles from land to leeward - set all sail and beat up, but it was squally at night and were obliged to take in sail

Saturday July 29th

A pleasant day. at about ten Oclock lowered two boats lowered and went fishing came on board at three oclock, wet, tired and hungry. sailed along to leeward of St Ambrose

Sunday July 30

Good weather with a strong breeze from the North. our course was South. nothing in sight

Monday July 31st

A strong breeze. nothing transpired to excite, but still it is pleasant and if it was "human nature" to be contented I think they must be here

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. August 1871

Tuesday August 1st

Nearly calm: very pleasant nothing to see nothing to hear nothing to do the last suits me to a T

Wednesday Aug 2

Same kind of weather. nothing to see and the most excitement was a rooster created and that by flipping overboard poor fellow! he looked bad when he came on deck.

Thursday Aug 3d

Calm: nothing in sight today a man fell overboard but it did not create any great excitement that I am aware of for he was on deck before anyone knew he had been overboard

Friday Aug 4th

Good weather was cruising fine and by this afternoon the try cask was hoisted on decks to cover the [illegible] or nearly so, [illegible] make the condition of a sailor's shirt look [illegible]

Saturday Aug 5th

"Nothing to see nothing to hear nothing to wear is there Dora?" "Nothing mama"

Sunday Aug 6

A fine breeze and a fair day, and it passed as pleasantly as most of them do although this day of the week is generally attended with pleasant thoughts which make me [illegible] bad

Monday Aug 7th

Good weather: nothing in sight our cook had some kind of a fit which rendered him unfit for any service.

Tuesday Aug 8th

Good weather a strong breeze from the S W. we were running before the wind course S.E. nothing in sight

Journal on board

S.P.O. August 1871

Wednesday Aug 9

Running under double reefed topsails a jolly breeze course S.E. nothing in sight

Thursday Aug 10

Run under double reefed topsails all day and at night hove to under close reefed main so we go and so we stop

Friday Aug 11th

Was running until three O'clock and then hove to on the Port tack. Juan Fernandez in sight and soon perhaps we will be cruising

Saturday Aug 12

Squally. several merchantmen but none whales in sight. but no work for us Tobacco day.

Sunday Aug 14

"Rich men may dwell in brown stone fronts
Have all that wealth can buy
Enjoy themselves while here on earth
As fashion suits their eye
I do not envy any one
For, I'm contented quite
And pleasure find within my room
With my old Meerschaum pipe"

Monday Aug 15

A gale of wind was hove to under close reefed main-top-sail. nothing done

Friday Aug 16

Very pleasant and very cool. nothing in sight.

Wednesday Aug.

First rate weather for scrimshawing and that seems to be the rage now the time passes off much quicker than doing nothing

Bark Alfred Gibbs

August 1871

Thursday Aug 17

Good weather, nothing in sight nothing doing, a strong breeze. was under double reefed top sails. Took in [illegible] at night

Friday Aug 18th

A gale of wind, was under close reefed top sails. two sails in sight. one [illegible] and one merchantman. [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]

Saturday Aug 19

Quite pleasant in the morning. set whole top sails. at noon took in every thing but close reefed main top sail nothing in sight

Sunday Aug 20

Nearly calm. nothing in sight. but sea birds! Clouds. finbacks and other inhabitants of sea and some from land though we can not be far from it

Monday Aug 21st

Calm. and dull. nothing in sight land or [illegible] I don't know but a little work would be [illegible] [illegible] by [illegible]

Tuesday Aug 22nd

This must be monotonous to read [illegible], so is the life it is written about. calm and the same kind of weather

Wednesday Aug 23.

A change! a gale of wind was under close reefed main top sail only. rainy, no [illegible] no [illegible] for [illegible] our own friends & [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]

Thursday Aug 24th

No whales, no birds. or any thing but whale and wind. [illegible] of main top sail and spray flying over the bulwarks. but this can't go on forever some change will come [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in one [illegible] and [illegible] it?

Journal on board

S. W. C. August 1871

Friday Aug. 25th

Good weather once more, towards night had a light breeze from the South, set the main topgallantsail and other light sail

Saturday Aug 26th

Good weather nothing in sight.

Sunday Aug 27th

Good weather: nothing in sight except clouds, birds, sky, sea &c

Monday Aug 28th

Good weather: two sails in sight. when will we have something to write about I would really like to make some figures if we could only get over the conscientious scruples, so we go and so we don't go today we are under double reefed topsails

Tuesday Aug 29th

A gale of wind: was under double reefed main topsail and close reefed fore nothing in sight and work none

Wednesday Aug 30th

A gale of wind: at eleven O'clock our Cook D. Smith who has been very sick and unable to speak above a whisper came on deck and went over in the lee chains and soon we began to look for him. but in vain we looked. whether he was washed overboard or from some cause did not care to live — the latter some few seemed to think — but certain it is we never saw more of him. wore ship immediately but all we saw was his cap and all we will see until "the sea gives up its dead"

Aug 30th

A gale of wind yet. no men aloft and nothing in sight from deck.

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. September [illegible]

Friday Sept. 1st [illegible]

I have seen [illegible] the south but got more sail and had men aloft but they did not discover anything that I am aware of

Saturday Sept 2nd

Not much wind. finbacks, humpbacks and such kind of fish but not the kind we are looking for. I think we could take care of one just as well as not now, but nothing [illegible] in the first part of the [illegible]

Sunday Sept 3

Just five months ago today since we left Talcahuano and it has not seemed longer than five weeks at the longest. nothing in sight

Monday Sept 4th

A fine day with a light south wind just such a day as I like to chase whales when I can really enjoy the fun. but some days I would like to be excused but not now [illegible] [illegible] are here

Tuesday Sept 5th

A gale of wind was made close reefed topsails. nothing in sight was on the port tack until night then wore round

Wednesday Sept 6

Nothing in sight [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of wind [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and on the starboard tack

Thursday Sept 7th

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] be [illegible]

[illegible]

Journal on board

S. P. O. September 1871

Friday Sep 8th

A gale of wind or perhaps a little better nothing in sight no sail set more than close reefed fore and main topsails

Saturday Aug 9th

Good weather nothing in sight. sunshine and pleasant winds double reefed topsails set

Sunday Sep. 10th

Nearly calm. did not make much sail. Mainsail main topmast staysail and the light sail. nothing in sight

Monday Sept. 11th

Ever pleasant when the wind dont blow too hard. one sail in sight a merchant bark. nothing more to be seen however far you might look. double reefed topsails us

Tuesday Sept 12

Squally several merchant ships in sight but more whalers and less whales

Wednesday Sept 13

Rainy. the greater part. of the day. one sail in sight a merchantman. Humpbacks. finbacks porpoises &c etc

Thursday Sep 14th

Upon the whole this must be put down for a pleasant day. two or three sails in sight also humpbacks, finbacks, and other small ones although if they were sperm whales as large we would be after them

Friday Sept 15th

A day for mending sail. the main topsail was the one. calm and warm just such weather as precedes a Souther in the Southeastern part of Massachusetts. nothing in sight

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. September 1871

Saturday Sep. 16

This is the day which we generally get out our stores. and nothing more done nothing in sight. was under short sail

Sunday Sep 17th

Good weather: nothing in sight. under double reefed topsails.

Monday Sep. 18th

A light wind. and a pleasant day. everything went on quietly and smoothly nothing more than two sails in sight. one of them a whaler. now for a gamm

Tuesday Sep. 19th

Calm. not a "breath of wind" two sails in sight. both supposed to be whalers one of them boiling. but we probably know as much a bout it as we will we lowered for hump backs which were playing around the ship

Wednesday Sep 20

Fine weather: and nearly calm. the Martha and Morning Star in sight. gammed the Star she has taken 100 bbls since we gammed

Thursday Sep 21st

A light breeze in the morning. the sea seemed full of finbacks, and humpbacks. shot a bomb in one from the ship. I think it would try a boat some if one had been fast to him the whalemen have all disappeared

Friday Sep 22nd

Dark damp disagreeable weather. gammed the Martha. she had taken 60 bbls. since we gammed her the last time. down to [illegible] near. nothing in sight

Journal on board

S.P.O. September 1871

Saturday Sep 23

Strong breeze nothing to do. the Mar-tha and Morning Star finbacks hump-backs and porpoises in sight

Sunday Sep 24

A gale of wind and cold enough to suit an Esquimaux merchant ships in sight no mastheads this afternoon

Monday Sep. 25th

No mastheads in the forenoon. was under close reefed topsails. nothing in sight

Tuesday Sep 26th

Much better weather, a pleasant day in [illegible]. land in sight. Chili somewhere near Talcahuano. Martha and Star in sight

Wednesday Sep 27

Fine weather: gammed the Morning Star all day gamm. the most kind of gamms. nothing in sight

Thursday Sep 28

Good weather a light breeze. we was on the starboard tack heading E.S.E. two whalers in sight. nothing more

Friday Sep 29th

Cold falls the sleet and rain cold winds blow with cold water under and around us but little care I how winds may blow because I'm [illegible] its my watch below

Saturday Sep 30

Clear and cold. nothing in sight until 2 O'clock then sperm whales were raised and three boats lowered for them the mate struck a 20 bbl. whale and we struck a second boat. but seeing a chance for loose whale we cut and started in pursuit but it was useless. had the whale along side by 4 o'clock

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. October 1871

Sunday Oct. 1st

Called all hands at six this morning and had him in the blubber room at half past seven, and boiling at noon. two whales in sight and Quiriquina an island in Talcahuano bay

Monday Sep. 2d

Finished boiling this morning before daylight; scrubbed ship and stowed down [illegible] gear. turned up 25 bbls. Martha in sight.

Tuesday Oct. 3.

A disagreeable day. being both wet and cold. nothing in sight. wind blowing strong from the South. the first of this month was the time appointed for port but it is a matter of doubt in my mind whether we get in this month

Wednesday Oct. 4th

Unlucky we certainly have been today. raised sperm whales this morning at seven O'clock. they were small in size but great in number. but great or small we did not get any of them, although we tried hard enough. well, tomorrow is my birthday and we will have better luck

Thursday Oct. 5th

Yes! better luck certainly we did have in the forenoon stowed down 28 bbls. oil and after dinner [illegible] raised sperm whales off the lee quarter and [illegible] boats, [illegible] the mate struck a good sized whale then the [illegible] Third mate struck, and got our boat [illegible] in [illegible] line the second [illegible] was carried around [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] very bad. but we killed the whale in short order, the [illegible] line [illegible] so we saved only [illegible]. the [illegible] boats were [illegible] us but did not get a [illegible] [illegible] one with 5?0 bbls [illegible] two whales [illegible]

Journal on board

S. P. C. October 1877

Friday Oct. 6th

Called all hands at five O'clock and commenced cutting. at seven had breakfast at ten they were down in the blubber room and before four O'clock the fluke was cut in and a roaring fire going under the pots Splendid weather this for our work

Saturday Oct. 7th

Boiling all day: nothing in sight the wind was blowing half a gale. had nothing set except a close reefed maintopsail

Sunday Oct. 8th

No mastheads. the wind was blowing strong from the South. boiled all day until 11 P.M. then cooled down

Monday Oct. 9th

The wind had abated. so commenced boiling this morning. finished just before dark all hands this afternoon stowing down no men aloft. close reefed topsails set

Tuesday Oct 10th

Oil all stowed down by 10 O'clock and then commenced scrubbing ship. this last fish stowed down 85 bbls. making us 675. bbls

Wednesday Oct 11th

Pleasant weather: one sail in sight supposed to be the Martha. and one Merchant ship. we were under double reefed topsails

Thursday Oct 12

Another fine day. numbers of finbacks in sight. but nothing more. a porpoise was struck which created as much excitement as anything and then curses were heard and hopes that he would escape

Bark Cicero Giles

October 1871

Friday Oct. 13

Squally and rainy. land in sight. blackfish [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] land [illegible] and fin backs in sight. no work for us.

Saturday Oct. 14

Good weather: as pleasant a day as could be seen. a large man-of-war passed us in the morning nothing more in sight except blackfish and porpoises.

Sunday Oct. 15

Good weather: land in sight in the afternoon gammed the Martha she had taken five whales since we gammed before

Monday Oct. 16

Squally all day. nothing in sight but finbacks and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] bound in

Tuesday Oct. 17

A fine day. made sail in the morning [illegible], and in the afternoon saw porpoises breaching and as they looked like sperm whales [illegible] for them, as [illegible] they were [illegible] the ship about the second mate went out to strike them. when he got overboard. the ship was going about four knots the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to him which he caught. a man by the name of [illegible] jumped overboard and pitched a bowline around him and we hauled him in. then made all [illegible] sail for [illegible]

Wednesday Oct. 18

Fine weather in the morning, but calm at night a light breeze sprung up. and land [illegible] in sight. [illegible]

Thursday 19th

Journal on board

S. P. O. November 1871

Wednesday. Nov 15

Pleasant weather. sent down the fore topsail and sewed all day on it then put it away unfinished cook was sick and poor Jim took his place. nothing in sight

Thursday Nov. 16th

Pleasant morning. but in the afternoon it was far from pleasant. finished the topsail and sent it up. four men sick and off duty. nothing in sight

Friday Nov. 17

Good weather again today. but a good breeze from the South. was under close reefed fore and main topsails sick men there are four a Spaniard was poisoned. kanakee suffers the effects of a drunken spree and what ails the two americans I know not

Saturday Nov 18th

Got a strong breeze. nothing in sight excepting humpbacks and other small fry as we are pleased to call them, sour grapes

Sunday Nov. 19th

Bad weather and my feelings were worse. this sailing is so close and hot. that I would not stop in it a year for the ship and cargo. for it would be worthless to me at the end of that time. nothing in sight

Monday Nov. 20th

Better weather but no better luck in catching whales or seeing them. I was sick and am now. for the first time since I came on board this ship

Tuesday - Nov.

Very pleasant. nearly calm. I was on duty but feeling miserable now all time
in

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. November 18

Wednesday Nov 22

Good weather. one sail in sight. a monotonous scene. nothing done [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] my spirits [illegible] so so

Thursday Nov 23

Pleasant weather nothing in sight except hopeless finbacks humpbacks & I have long ago given up the idea of getting [illegible] & [illegible].

Friday Nov 24th

Just a year and six months ago today I bid "farewell to my native land" and since how different it is, and I don't think the change for the worse. two sails in sight

Saturday Nov 25th

Very pleasant nothing in sight except the Morning Star and she right ahead. we [illegible] sail just so she could be seen by looking off the lee beam, so much for the Alfred Gibbs

Sunday Nov 26

Pleasant weather in the morning but squally in the afternoon. a good day to stand up under the weather rail and enjoy your own reflections, uninterrupted

Monday Nov 27th

Calm in the morning and we had wind enough this afternoon. I have been and [illegible] about writing in this book as it [illegible] pleasing then. since I [illegible] [illegible] a little and have been gradually slipping down the hill. [illegible]

Tuesday Nov 28th

A strong breeze, at about ten o'clock the Morning Star came [illegible] astern of us the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] the boats away they [illegible] for [illegible] we were steering [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in sight

☞ see page 21

Journal on board

A Port October 1871

Thursday Oct. 19th

Cloudy and rainy. this reminds me of some of the most miserable days of my life. dull rainy weather and work to do. Port watch ashore at night

Friday Oct. 20th

Starboard watch ashore on liberty. the weather was good but I did not do much travelling but yet I enjoyed myself very well. all this time the watch on duty was stowing wood & water

Saturday Oct. 21st

Port watch ashore on liberty today and we did nothing. a kanaka a chilano and a gentleman of color went to the hospital today their complaints being scurvy rheumatism and loss of toes. the last named

Sunday Oct. 22

Weather cloudy and rainy but we had a fine time of it on shore. we was on liberty. two of the watch went to the calaboose two ran away today and one yesterday our third mate was discharged yesterday

Monday Oct. 23d

The inboard watch had liberty today and the watch on duty took wood. we went in swimming at noon and [illegible] and I guess all the others caught cold

Tuesday Oct. 24th

Now we are ready for sea I suppose. we took the remainder of our wood. beans and other small stores. fourth mate promoted to our [illegible]. now

Wednesday Oct. 25

How many more such dull days must be passed here? I hope not many. for there is neither work or fun for us. all we can do is to listen to the work or sound of hammers and shovels &c of the workers on the rail-road.

Bark Alfred Gibbs

In Port October 1871

Thursday Oct 26th

A good weather we had it was fine, we were intending to go to sea today, our south wind could not [illegible] chance [illegible] [illegible]. this afternoon the Emma [illegible] to this port and an English bark came in. they were close hauled and got in [illegible] coming in to an anchor. the Englishman's yards were and [illegible] [illegible] away. the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] boat and made [illegible] a [illegible]

Friday Oct 27th

Good weather the wind is [illegible] [illegible] for sailing today we had very bright [illegible] [illegible] there [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] sideways and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] to [illegible] the boat and the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] three days [illegible]

Saturday Oct 28th

The wind was blowing strong from the south making it impossible to go to sea today so we are making [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the second [illegible] came [illegible]

Sunday Oct 29th

A pleasant morning this with a light south wind at ten o'clock we [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] the wind was [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] breakfast and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] we could [illegible]

Monday Oct 30th

Rainy and a south wind. a [illegible] [illegible] a small schooner came in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] longer I must write about the doings on this what I can see from on board ship

Tuesday Oct 31st

Today we did actually start and I can say that I am now gone, at about ten o'clock we were going as fast as a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and we are [illegible] out of sight of land

Journal on board

S. P. C. November 1871

Wednesday Nov. 1st

Strong breeze in the morning. rough and to me it was bad weather. two sails in sight. we gammed the Martha in the afternoon. we left her boiling and found her boiling. she has taken 80 bbls.

Thursday Nov. 2d

A strong breeze in the morning. and in fact all day. but what of it. I am over my seasickness. but can't but pipe those poor chums "[illegible] cast adrift"

Friday Nov. 3d

A gale of wind was hove to under close reefed main top sail. no lookouts. one sail in sight

Saturday Nov. 4th

A strong breeze yet. not so much as a day or two past. off to the leeward we saw a whaler. and thought she had her whaling signal set. so we ran down to her and found that she did not also that it was the Martha finbacks and sulphur bottoms in sight

Sunday Nov. 5th

A strong breeze from the South one sail in sight and that supposed to be the Martha. she is a whaler at least

Monday Nov. 6th

A pleasant day. one sail in sight off the lee beam. finbacks humpbacks and [illegible] in sight. I am discontented now. I have a plan to carry out when I get home that bothers me. the masthead is a great place. or a noted place for building air-castles. sometimes I come down well pleased with the plans I have formed and at others. as at present not so well

pleased

Bark Alfred Gibbs

[illegible] November 187

Tuesday Nov 28th

O strong breeze but we make small [illegible] [illegible] whales. wet rainy and cold. "Oh! for a lodge in some vast wilderness" gammed the [illegible]

Wednesday Nov 29th

A gale of wind we were hove to under a close reefed main topsail. nothing in sight

Thursday Nov 30th

No whales. [illegible] we [illegible] under the same sail but most of it is of course [illegible]. nothing in sight and I care not to see any thing or any body in my present frame of mind

Friday Nov 31st

No whales but we were looking for them and [illegible] [illegible] some [illegible] [illegible] we would not find them I say anything for excitement double reefed topsails set. one sail in sight

Saturday Nov 1st

Good weather with a strong breeze. [illegible] one sail in sight. and land. it seems to be a [illegible] colder now although the days are about the [illegible] hours long and that is [illegible] hours too long

Sunday Nov 2d

One pleasant day out of seven is the last and it [illegible] [illegible] I think" but why are we [illegible] such a [illegible] [illegible] as this? I do not [illegible] as bad as I write. nothing in sight

Monday Nov. 3d

A [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a strong breeze [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] decks. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to be [illegible]" [illegible] and [illegible] nothing in sight [illegible] at work

Tuesday Nov 4th

This day has been such as we have in the [illegible] [illegible] Massachusetts in November, it is not very [illegible] [illegible] all hands were [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] just out from home [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

Season 72 & 73

Journal on board

S. P. C. December 1871

Wednesday Nov. 29

A strong breeze. at six O'clock sperm whales were seen all around the ship. so we lowered after sailing awhile to leeward the second mate struck a good sized whale but in darting the second iron the line was cut nearly off. so near that it soon parted and we came on board.

At ten O'clock we were close to them again so three boats lowered and chased until three but without success. so came on board and got dinner

At four we lowered again and the third mate struck a whale the mate struck second boat. and we soon had them turned up and alongside. two sails in sight and both whalers

Thursday Nov. 30

Good weather. finished cutting at twelve. and then started the tryworks

Friday 1st

December 1873

Friday Dec. 1st

A pleasant day. all hands have been out of tobacco since we left port and to-day our sufferings were relieved

Saturday Dec. 2d.

Foggy. and rainy. finished boiling this morning. and stowed down. about forty barrels one sail in sight. that a whaler

Sunday Dec. 3d.

This has been truly a day of rest. Clean decks. to stretch out on and everything seems right nice. two or three or whales in sight.

Bark Alfred Gibbs

1 P.C. December 1871

Monday Dec 4th

Very pleasant. [illegible] whales in sight. finished stowing down the oil before breakfast. then scrubbed ship and [illegible] all night once more, stowed down 85 bbls. making [illegible] 7[illegible] bbls.

Tuesday Dec. 5th

Foggy and calm in the morning. at about eight o'clock the fog cleared off and we were close to three ships the [illegible] Martha and the [illegible]. the [illegible] boat came along-side but did not make a long stay.

Wednesday 6th

A gale of wind. three sails in sight. we were under close reefed topsails and the thing of it is no [illegible]

Thursday Dec 7th

A strong south wind today. nothing to be seen except the three [illegible] the Martha Morning Star and Mara.

Friday Dec. 8th

Quite pleasant weather. but for myself I am miserable a cold and a stiff neck and about two thirds sick [illegible] I [illegible] enough.

Saturday Dec. 9th

Pleasant at the same time on [illegible] and windier although it is summer here. several sails in sight. whales [illegible] none so soon for us.

Sunday Dect 10th

[illegible] in the morning. then [illegible] the [illegible] to windward of us with four boats down but we soon found out they were chasing black fish. [illegible] and [illegible] in the afternoon [illegible] Sunday [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible]

Journal on board

N.P.O. December 1871

Monday Dec 11th

Calm. there is nothing I think that a sailor dislikes so much as a calm. it makes one, restless and uneasy while on deck and when below the motion of the ship is so different it is difficult to sleep however tired we may be.

Tuesday Dec. 12th

A strong breeze and very cold. two sails in sight. and a few humpbacks. land in sight as in fact there is almost every day

Wednesday Dec 13

A strong breeze again today we were on the in tack, all day and as the wind as usual was south we was heading off shore.

Thursday Dec 14th

Get on the "off shore" tack and under double reefed top-sails. nothing in sight a strong breeze and cold enough

Friday Dec. 15

No signs of better weather yet. and the mastheads in this weather and unpleasant. but I find myself growling aboutt the weather again. so I'll jump in the bunk and read awhile then go to the land of dream

Saturday Dec 16th

This is Chili in more senses than one but for all that a stranger would say we were all taking a vast deal of comfort which I suppose we are only but few of us know it wet weather is not agreeable to anyone's feelings at all times

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. December 1871

Sunday Dec 17th

This morning we wore ship and now we are heading in towards land a light breeze from the South and three sails in sight

Monday Dec. 18

A strong breeze but pleasant for all of that. how smoothly and swiftly these days pass off. they are really pleasant. nothing to be seen.

Tuesday Dec. 19th

A strong breeze this morning. I think we must be very near our old cruising ground the water is black and has a muddy look, and almost every time we get on it we see whales. who knows but what I will get the next bounty?

Wednesday Dec 20th

All hands were called at six this morning to chase sperm whales. three boats lowered and pulled paddled and sailed until 2 o'clock then gave up the chase. we did not get very near them. three sails in sight

Thursday Dec. 21st

A pleasant day indeed. but not a trace of sperm whales could we see to-day. dullness "reigns supreme" here just now

Friday Dec 22d

A good breeze from the south. and we on the Starboard tack. going for that famous cruising ground, of ours. several sails in sight no work. which of course dont bother me at all.

Saturday Dec. 23d

A strong breeze. all day we were on the Starboard tack standing in shore under short sail reefed topsails and jib at night we heard the cry of "land ho!"

Journal on board

S.P.O. December 1871

Sunday Dec. 24th

Nearly calm. two sails in sight. at four Oclock the Morning Star run down to us for a gam. and some news we did hear, although it was nothing that took place lately. about ships being burnt or wrecked rather. in the Arctic Ocean. Chicago being burned. oil down $1.32 per gal. &c &c etc etc

Monday Dec. 25

Christmas day it really was. although any one should be put in mind of it very often on board here. if you would have him remember it. it was pleasant and all that could be expected of Christmas at sea

Tuesday Dec 26

I doubt not that we feel as well this morning as some that enjoyed Christmas hugely on land. nearly calm nothing in sight

Wednesday Dec 27

To day again I rather envy one that lives on shore. that is not uncommonly bad off for money or necessaries of life. but at the same time my tears dont seem to run thick enough to wipe out this scouting, good weather. course S.E. by E.

Thursday Dec 28th

This morning we are in pleasant weather but whether we have sailed fast enough under double reefed topsails to catch bad weather or it has caught us. one thing is certain it will have to leave us we are under a close reefed main topsail at the present time

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.C. January 1872

Friday Dec 29th

Good weather. several whales in sight and as many more merchant vessels. in the after noon we gammed the Morning Star and Mary and Susan.

Saturday Dec 30

A strong breeze nothing in sight

Sunday Dec 31st

Strong breeze. finbacks and humpbacks in sight also several whales. so we will have to leave the year of 1871

January 1872

Monday Jan 1st

A gale of wind we were under close reefed fore and main topsails and digging off shore for dear life apparently

Tuesday Jan 2d

Rainy foggy and bad weather generally, not much wind. and rough, decks wet and slippery, and comfort. none nothing in sight

Wednesday Jan 3d

A strong breeze. was under close reefed fore and main topsail. several sails in sight, and nothing more.

Thursday Jan 4th

This has been a pleasant day, such a one as makes all hands feel good whether we have any thing to eat drink or wear. and hard work to do at that

Friday Jan 5th

A gale of wind today we were under close reefed maintopsail and fore stay sail no man dry. and if a dry place on deck could be found the finder was lucky one merchant vessel in sight from

[illegible]

Journal on board

S.P.O. January 1872

Saturday Jan 6th.

A strong breeze one or two sails in sight I would really like to know where we are but are totally unable to ascertain by any mental calculation and that is the only mode, Ahem!

Sunday Jan. 7th.

A pleasant day with a good breeze. no sound was heard except the striking of four bells. the signal to relieve mastheads and [illegible] and eight bells for the relief of watches nothing in sight one sail excepted

Monday Jan. 8th.

To day we have been busily engaged in sewing sail - main topsail; nothing in sight that would make us any richer if we could have it

Tuesday Jan. 9th.

A strong breeze nothing in sight

Wednesday Jan. 10th.

So we have it storms and calms good weather and bad, so it goes here and so it goes everywhere both at sea and on land. "such is life". good weather today

Thursday Jan. 11th.

A strong breeze nothing in sight save some land somewhere to the south of Talcahuano; no work for us. A little could be done just as well as not for a change our [illegible] has run out for awhile.

Friday Jan 12th.

A gale of wind again. was hove to under close reefed maintopsail and fore stay sail. nothing in sight from deck and no man aloft.

Bark Alfred Gibbs

O. P. G. January 1872

Saturday Jan. 13th

The same kind of a yarn to spin today
a strong breeze, no mastheads nothing in
sight no work. no play nothing to eat

Sunday Jan 14th

About the same kind of weather as the
preceding days only had men aloft looking
out for "square heads"

Monday Jan 15th

Pretty good weather for this coast. and the
day. the weather has been good enough for
any. but little good did it do us

Tuesday Jan 16th

A gale of wind. we were under close reefed
main topsail again. and no lookouts.

Wednesday Jan 17th

A Norther: well this is good for a change
rainy and wet of course. nothing in sight
and did not have men aloft all day

Thursday Jan 18th

Good weather nothing in sight and all
hands taking comfort.

Friday Jan 19th

Very pleasant or at least it seems so
after so much bad weather nothing in sight

Saturday Jan 20th

Strong breeze from the south nothing in
sight except two merchant ships a little
work today getting out water. flour and
small stores. if we could only see or do
something for excitement

Sunday Jan 21st

Was under close reefed main top sail. a strong
breeze from the south. nothing in sight

Journal on board

S.P.C. January 1872

Monday Jan 22

A gale of wind, was under reefed main topsail no men aloft and nothing in sight from deck

Tuesday Jan 23

Oh! for a change, this is hard almost unendurable. the same old story day after day. men aloft. today

Wednesday Jan 24

A gale of wind we were under close reefed topsails. nothing more in sight and nothing less

Thursday Jan 25

Pleasant weather for the coast. for I think we must be close in shore and it is generally worse weather than farther off. gammed the John Carver

Friday Jan 26th

A dry cloudy dull day. was under double reefed topsails on the Starboard tack. two whales in sight

Saturday Jan 27th

Good weather enough for this coast or any other; two whalers in sight we must be very near land by all appearances

Sunday Jan 28th

Nearly calm all day. a whaler to windward was running off forward day. at three o'clock a boat came alongside with Capt. Stowell of Bark Laetitia of N. Bedford after the gamm we had a breeze and our course was S.S.E.

Monday Jan 29

A clear day and smooth sea and we with wind off our quarter. and some pleasant sailing we had.

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.C. February 1872

Tuesday Jan 30th

Calm. a real sailmaking - or rather mending - day. sent down the foresail and sewed on it nearly all day. three sails in sight. two whalers like ourselves

Wednesday Jan 31

Pleasant weather this afternoon gammed Bks. Martha and John Carver. and taking it all round we had a good time

Thursday

February 1872

Thursday Feb 1st

A strong breeze. the Martha on our lee beam nothing more in sight. we was under double reefed topsails has carried topgallantsails for the last four days and nights. today we got tobacco

Friday Feb 2d

A strong breeze was under double reefed topsails and foresail. nothing at all to be seen

Saturday Feb. 3d

To day the same kind of weather and the same amount of sail nothing to see from the masthead except the spray curling up and slowly going to leeward from finbacks

Sunday Feb 4th

A strong breeze today but pleasant we have not seen a finback [illegible] we see today and we are getting apparently so blood thirsty that we would chase them if we could see them.

Monday Feb. 5th

A strong breeze and many sail other ways [illegible] and nothing to be seen [illegible] of the [illegible] we are busy working up the wood [illegible] from the [illegible] and it is quite amusing to see them work and the tools they work with [illegible] made a pair of needles with a [illegible] of a file not an inch [illegible]

Journal on board

S.P.O. February 1872

Tuesday Feb 6

The same kind of weather. wet and cold nothing in sight from deck and no men aloft.

Wednesday Feb 7

"When winds breathe soft along the silent deep.
The waters curl the peaceful billows sleep:
A stronger gale the troubled wave awakes.—
The surface roughens and the ocean shakes"
Scarritts fourth book

Thursday Feb 8th

Rain small fog squalls and wind squalls in a word squally.

Friday Feb. 9th

Today no mastheads for squalls

Saturday Feb 10

Quite pleasant. set the main to'gan'sl this morning. and stood along on the starboard tack and raised two sails both whalers and one cutting

Sunday Feb. 11th

A strong breeze. the John Carver passed along to windward of us. we was under close reefed fore and main topsails

Monday Feb. 12

Thick weather. one sail in sight. this is the only thing to be seen from aloft. but on deck something could be seen that looks bad.

Tuesday Feb. 13

Quite pleasant weather but the weather aint something good to eat plenty of it and no work does not always keep one feeling well, nothing in sight

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. February 1872

Wednesday Feb.

A strong breeze and cold. several sails in sight. this morning at about five O'clock we raised a large sperm whale and lowered, and after chasing him about eight hours gave up the chase. came on board and got breakfast.

Thursday Feb.

Almost a gale of wind. from the South. nothing in sight and no work

Friday Feb.

The weather has changed for the better but our [illegible] has changed it is true. and as he is the I-dont-know what-to-call-him. it makes it unpleasant. several whales in sight

Saturday Feb. 1

Pleasant. today and if that sperm whale would only show us his "long and ponderous tail". or his spout. I think we would get near enough to touch it with an iron pole.

Sunday Feb.

Pleasant weather. we was on the Starboard tack. when we raised three whales swimming and soon we spoke one of the number. they were Bark Caroline "Sarah" sailed Oct. 10th 1871 Capt. Luce and John [illegible] Howland.

Monday Feb. 1

Very calm. at one o'clock P.M. we raised a large school of sperm whales going to leeward [illegible] about one hour. three boats lowered and in the course of another hour the second mate struck a [illegible] bull. a real horse to [illegible] and [illegible] to kick in [illegible] we got [illegible] and [illegible]) [illegible] him a long way from the boat the line was cut instantly and while the mate struck the whale the three mates cleared the wreck of [illegible]

Journal on board

S.P.O ; February 1872

Tuesday Feb. 20

Got the whale cut in before ten o'clock this morning at about one had the works going. and I find it much more pleasant standing before a nice fire than up to my neck in the cold water

Wednesday, 21

Was boiling all day several sails in sight all whalers. pleasant weather

Thursday Feb. 22

Finished boiling this morning early it was squally all day raining and wet and nothing unusual to be seen

Friday Feb. 23d

Good weather: two or three whalers in sight. stowed down the oil today, stowed down 51 bbls. making us 790 bbls. all told

Saturday Feb. 24

Rainy and squally no work and nothing much to be seen although we was looking for them.

Sunday Feb. 25

Becalmed

Monday Feb. 26th

About the first thing this morning was gamm. the Wm Bourse. of N. Bedford and after supper gammed again

Tuesday Feb. 27th

Pleasant weather this morning, five whalers in sight. this afternoon we was obliged to come down to doublereefed topsails

Wednesday Feb. 28

No sail set this day. cold and wet and to the masthead it is particularly disagreeable. nothing in sight

S.Pc. March 1872

Thursday Feb. 29

A strong breeze from the south this morning the stoven boat that was took her place on the cranes. so now we are ready for them again. spoke the John Carver

March 1872

Friday Mar. 1st

Quite pleasant for the coast of Chili here we go sailing around the same ground over and over we near ships regular once a day. it seems dull to be so.

Saturday Mar. 2d

Pleasant weather. nothing in sight and no work to do

Sunday Mar. 3d

Squally and raining all day nothing in sight such a day at sea as this I cannot describe, much less the feelings that such Sundays bring to one that could formerly lay when he could hear the rain pattering overhead and with some good book to read. how much more pleasant than standing on the deck of a whaleship or reefing topsails in such a time

Monday Mar. 4th

A strong breeze from the S. W. and some rain. nothing in sight and no work

Tuesday Mar. 5th

Pleasant

Wednesday Mar. 6

A strong breeze and a bad sea for our business which for today was whaling. This morning a large sperm whale was raised from deck by [illegible] and three boats lowered. soon after another ship came along and she also lowered. Soon after chasing the [illegible] [illegible] to leeward [illegible] [illegible] after the [illegible] to the second [illegible] of [illegible]
[illegible]

Journal on board

S. P. O. March 1872

started to windward and took all of our line except one flake in the waist tub. then luckily for us he started to leeward when we hauled in the line and put in the second iron and then we had to go in for another ride and a wet one too — to windward. at last we got a good chance to lance him and killed him before any other boat could get fast took him alongside and had just got his jaw off as night overtook us

Thursday Mar 7th

A gale of wind in the morning. at about six o'clock while cutting in the fluke chain parted and of course let the whale adrift the old man said "we'll have to let him go" but the mate volunteered to pick him up. he fastened to him and run a line to the ship and after we had him alongside the second time the line parted the whale got adrift again. this time the waist boat lowered and after running out two tubs of line had just enough to reach the ship. we then came on board. and as it had been raining in torrents the sea grew calm and the wind died away. and left us pleasant weater It was about twelve o'clock when we had him alongside the third time. but we kept him or the largest part at least. cut in the body in the afternoon and let the head go a Chileano had his leg nearly broken by the blubber sliding across the deck. he was apparently too tired to get out of the way. but I think if the truth was written the cause of it would be put down with these letters placed as they are [illegible]

Bark Alfred Gibbs

N.P.O. March 1872

Friday Mar. 1st

We were looking away merrily and talking of the products of the labor of yesterday and the day before — or without one, the other would be useless — when the mastheadsman sung out "there blows a school of sperm whales". all hands were called and the larboard and bow boats lowered immediately and soon after the waist boat lowered. after running off about an hour the mate went alongside of one and just as his boatsteerer darted he settled and did not get the iron. the second officer then went up to one and after the one that raised the whale (Sherman) put two irons in we killed him he was a forty bbl bull and [illegible] his [illegible] very well. had him alongside at about three o'clock, got dinner and at seven he was [illegible].

Saturday Mar. 2d

All hands were kept on deck today and kept hard at work cutting junks, bailing the case and boiling. our [illegible] machine was broken this morning and now we are cutting the oldfashioned way with big knives. [illegible] or rather Capt Jernegan of Bark R. L. Barstow of Nantucket came on board the same one we were whaling with [illegible]

Sunday Mar. 3d

Good weather only now and then a squall of rain. and our men [illegible] looking steadily all day. three or four whales we saw.

Monday Mar. 4th

Today we finished boiling and [illegible] good weather again but I am not [illegible] the weather is so long as it is good enough to go and look about us.

Journal on board

S. P. O. March 1872

Tuesday Mar 12

Good weather. stowed down all day or to use a little nearer the night was stowing down oil and all day at work. decidedly worse— just at night Davis raised a large whale and our boats lowered but the did not get near enough to strike before night set in

Wednesday Mar 13th

Pleasant and nearly calm. finished stowing down oil and scrubbed ship the last two whales stowed 115 bbls making 920 bbls

Thursday Mar 14

Rainy and Cold

Friday Mar. 15th

Good weather. nothing in sight. had a strong breeze from the from the south and was steering N. E.

Saturday Mar. 16

A strong breeze from the S. W. was running under double reefed main top sail and fore sail and our course was N. N. E.

Sunday Mar 17

A strong breeze from the southward.
Our topsails was close reefed
With spanker furled and staysails too
Our course was North Northeast

Monday

My first attempt at poetry makes me smile as I look it over. and reminds me of a comic piece called or entitled "Ye Constable" and is just about as sensible it is useless to enclose them in parenthesis for it can plainly be seen who is the author

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. March 1872

Monday Mar. 11th

Becalmed again and we laying here under double reefed topsails looking for what we cannot see.

Tuesday Mar. 12th

Made or set all sail the morning and stood E.N.E. through the [illegible] fleet off the coast of Chili at night took in sail as usual

Wednesday Mar. [illegible]

A strong South wind we were on the starboard tack and again run through the fleet

Thursday Mar. [illegible]

A gale of wind and we were aloft and I think the latter places worse than the former [illegible] close reefed topsails

Friday Mar. [illegible]

Of what was written for Mar. 2nd was only a little better writing I would take it for a copy as long as there [illegible] holds on. but I don't write [illegible]

Saturday Mar. [illegible]

Much Wind

Sunday Mar. 17

Less wind now and more sail set

[illegible]

The same monotonous round
We follow day by day
It is a dull and dreary life
With neither work or play

I don't [illegible] see any [illegible] greater [illegible] one's [illegible] [illegible] when I can only pass such excellent (?) pieces [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Journal on board
[illegible] March 1872

Tuesday Mar.

This morning we were close in land and standing away from it wore ship and [illegible] but the wind was light and at three P.M. we were becalmed about three miles from the entrance of the bay so we lowered four boats and towed in with seven then dropped anchor and turned in

Wednesday Mar 27

Thick fog this morning but we made sail and got up to the anchorage at about eleven O'clock. then for letters but for me there was none.
the starboard watch ashore at night

Thursday Mar. 28th

Good weather but nothing to do.
Today my letters arrived and after reading them I was in very good spirits. there is nothing to cheer one up when far away from home - I will not say friends for if one has no friends it is usually his own fault - like good news from home
The whalers in this port now are as follows - of N Bedford: John Carver Rousseau [illegible] Swan and Black Eagle of [illegible] R. L. Barstow

Friday Mar 29th

Good weather but very still here in the harbor. it is what the Chilanos call Semana Santa the days of lent and when that is over the Devil [illegible] or somebody else is burned. ships are compelled to hoist their colors at half-mast

Bark Alfred Gibbs

In Port April 1872

Saturday Mar 30th
Clear and Moderate weather [illegible]

Sunday Mar 31st
Starboard watch got liberty but I did not go on shore or enjoy myself very much

April 1872

Monday April 1st

Painting

Tuesday Apr 2
Painting all day today and at night the starboard watch went on shore but there without money however small the amount is nothing great

Wednesday 3
Finished painting and after that took a few things on shore such as plate chains' blubber-hooks &c to be mended and that completed our days labor

Thursday Apr 4th
Nothing done except a little painting and then got up tackle for breaking out oil on the morrow and in order to have the men in good trim we were all kept on board ship

Friday April 5th
Was breaking out oil all day and with only six men on deck some of these ten bbl. casks moved slowly and about 200 bbls. on board the [illegible] to go home

Saturday Apr 6th
Went on last oil off this morning and after finishing off deck our large work was finished complete and a watch allowed to go on shore at night and a little more than 300 bbls on board [illegible]

Journal on Board

In Port April 1872

Sunday Apr 7th

The Larboard watch ashore on liberty and we on board ship had a very good time of it, the first part of the day was spent in sleep. the remainder in smoking, yarning, looking around the harbor &c etc &c etc

Monday Apr 8th

Stowing casks all day for water and other provision and at night the Starboard watch went ashore on liberty

Tuesday Apr. 9th

Setting up shooks

Wednesday Apr. 10th

Work is done or nearly so for the present I believe. for work and liberty does not go well together for one day liberty means two days off duty with some people

Thursday Apr. 11

Liberty S. Watch

Friday Apr. 12

This lieing around on deck is or seems to be worse than work. we dont feel so well during the day or sleep as well at night. it is hard enough to be idle all the time

Saturday Aps. 13th

A real Norther. a good one. we took some ballast and the remainder of the day we were stowing casks. this afternoon the Rainbow arrived here. in this port, no watch ashore at night

Bark Alfred Gibbs

In Port April 1872

Sunday Apr 1

Very pleasant. but no one was allowed to go on shore until night when the port watch had their last liberty

Monday Apr 1

A north wind early in the morning the Bk Mars arrived and soon after the Morning Star came in, and some time in the evening the Courser arrived

Tuesday Apr 16

Pleasant weather. nothing done except a little wood and water put on board and at night the Starboard watch went on shore

Wednesday Apr. 17

Took water, wood potatoes, flour and in fact all of our provision, and as far as I know we are ready for sea

Thursday Apr. 1

A strong breeze from the South. so heavy that no boat could come off to us. no work and no shore this day

Friday Apr. 1

Rainy and cold. but we had nothing to do but keep comfortable as we could and below in a dry warm bunk we managed very well it would be a nice thing if we could always get in our bunks in such weather instead of sometimes up aloft to handle wet cold sail. But we dont expect to get along without some troubles

Journal on board

In Port April 1872

Saturday Apr. 20th

Good weather again but just as well for us is bad. for we have no work to do. Starboard watch ashore at night

Sunday Apr. 21st

A strong breeze from the south no one allowed to go on shore until night and then the port watch went B.ks. Clem. John Carver and R. L. Barstow sailed today

Monday Apr. 22d

This forenoon a diver came off to fix the outwater something having been washed away off the Cape he adjusted his suit and went down to look at it and probably set his price

Tuesday Apr. 23d

A strong breeze from the south and cold the outwater was fixed today. Bark Roman sailed today with one of our men she has been searched but he was not a fool neither very foolish

Wednesday Ap. 24

Out of work yet. Today the Cornelia's boat came in. with Capt Lewis and the poor fellows with the second mate had to pull outside to the ship

Thursday Ap. 25

Good weather but a strong North wind. the Cornelias boat came in again today and pulled off to look for the ship but could not find her. and came on board us and stopped all night

Bark Alfred Gibbs

At Port April 1872

Friday Apr 26

Dull times

Saturday Apr 27

A North wind in the morning but before night the wind hauled round to the South and a watch went on shore

Sunday Apr 28th

Very pleasant. gamming going on all day. and ashore at [illegible]

Monday Apr 29

Good weather but a South wind most of the day, but at night a watch went ashore at [illegible] 4 o'clo

Tuesday Ap

Good weather: nothing stirring around here except a fruit steamer arrived and the [illegible] sailed

May 1872

Wednesday May

Pleasant for the first of May. Nothing for us to do but take a few things on board that was to complete our outfit and then go ashore

Thursday May

Fine weather in the morning hauled out away from the [illegible] and [illegible] from nine until three o'clock running on board when we got up anchor and left was on the starboard tacks with a westerly wind all night so here we go for seven months more whaling

Journal on board

S.P.O. May 1872

Friday May 3d

Light wind in the morning. but it kept increasing and with it of course our speed. until we shortened sail and that was nearly night and all signs of land have disappeared

Saturday May 4th

A strong breeze from the South and upon the whole. bad weather. nothing in sight. course N by W.

Sunday May 5

Good weather: clear and cold. still and lovely, nothing in sight

Monday May 6th

Rainy. windy cold. and disagreeable nothing in sight. no course. wind South my writing reminds me of a piece I saw in a paper a short time since entitled "A Novel Condensed" It ran a-long something like this. "a shady grove a moonlight night two lovers meet" &c &c &c &c etc etc etc

Tuesday May 7th

Throughout the twenty-four hours it was pleasant. course W by North nothing in sight. but at night we got what made us all smile for we had been without our since we came out of port. Tobacco.

Wednesday May 8

Rainy. and squally and in the afternoon we were under close-reefed [illegible] top-sail and [illegible] called down was on the Port tack

Bark Alfred Gibbs

189 May 1872

Thursday May 30th

A gale of wind in the forenoon and came calm in the afternoon the usual whale and lookout were sent out good weather the remaining twenty four hours

Friday May 31st

Squalls of rain and wind were frequent during the twenty four hours was under our usual sail. close reefed main topsail nothing in sight

Saturday May 1st

Squalls & Rainy

Sunday May 2nd

Rainy and squally throughout the day and night, all silent except the winds dismal howling through the rigging nothing seen to break the monotony

Monday May 3rd

Quite pleasant for the place although 't is not advisable to tell where it is I am ignorant as to the latitude of the place and my writing indicates ignorance in regard to other matters as well

Tuesday May 4th

Good weather as soon as it was light saw Juan Fernandez and before night Massafuera came in sight shortened sail at night have carried it for two days

Wednesday May 5th

A strong breeze in the morning and afternoon shortened sail. Sulphur bottom and land in sight. in the afternoon kept off our course was then N.W. two sails in sight

Journal on Board

S.P.O. May 1872

Thursday May 16

A strong breeze from the south. but set the foresail and fore topsail then luffed up on the Port tack

Friday May 17th

Pleasant. in the afternoon had a three handed gamm, gammed the John Carver and Courser.

Saturday May 18

A strong breeze and squalls of rain were frequent. at about eight Oclock saw the Courser's boats down and soon after saw a large sperm whale. we lowered three boats and the second mate time the mate went along side of him he struck him and soon had him turned up and alongside. hooked on and commenced cutting

Sunday May 19.

We were at it early this morning and although it was cloudy and windy it was not bad weather for cutting. had him in on deck before dark and case bailed and overboard before nine Oclock

Monday May 20

Was boiling all day. finished the whale which made us 40 bbls. in the afternoon gammed the Courser

Tuesday May 21

Very pleasant for our work. boiling the Courser in sight and humpbacks. a man had his [illegible] cut off heading up a cask today

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. May 1872

Wednesday May 22

Nearly calm and showers of rain found their way among us quite often in the forenoon but the afternoon it was pleasant finished boiling this afternoon

Thursday May 23

Pleasant weather. cleared up a little this morning and then commenced to stow oil stowed down 110 bbls making us 1830. all told

Friday May 24

Just two years ago today. our good bark sailed from New Bedford, or tried to. and today we have been scrubbing ship in the South Pacific Ocean. and gamming the Courser

Saturday May 25th

Cloudy and rather cold. sent down the fore topsail mended it and sent it up again. so this day a week is gone with a little more oil for us it is true but whether we are any better off. God only knows. we feel thankful any how

Sunday May 26th

Good weather throughout the twenty four hours. one day seems to be a forerunner of the other. three sails in sight

Monday May 27th

Nearly calm during the day. three whalers in sight and in the afternoon gammed the John Carver, and had a pretty good time

Tuesday May 28th

Pleasant in the morning but in the afternoon it began to blow. we gammed the Mars in the afternoon. three or four sick with some kind of pains on board [illegible]

Journal on board

S.P.C. June 1872

Wednesday May 29

A strong breeze accompanied by rain nothing going on. three whales in sight and finbacks humpbacks &c

Thursday May 30th

Good Weather

Friday May 31st

Must be passed over

June 1872

Saturday June 1st

Nice weather. but it is the same thing over and over. once in a while some old box of a blubber hunter goes—apparently—drifting by. like ourselves

Sunday June 2d

Calm all day. not a thing to be seen

Monday June 3d

Nothing in sight from the mast-head. and there is—as a general thing—more to be seen and heard from deck sometimes than from the mast head and not the slightest necessity for looking over the rail either.

Tuesday June 4th

Calm and rainy for the first twelve hours. but the remainder of the day was pleasant. So much for the weather and as for what we did I shall say less

Wednesday June 5th

Calm the first half of the day but after noon the wind began to blow from the south. one merchantman in sight

Bark Alfred Gibbs

8th O June 1872

Thursday June 6th

No more work after 12 noon. then had a good breeze from the S. and some rain shortened sail as usual at 4 P.M. nothing in sight except a few finbacks

Friday June 7th

A light breeze throughout the day nothing in sight. put up a new main-top-gallant-backstay which took the greater part of the last two days

Saturday June 8th

A strong breeze during the day. were under double reefed topsails and at night we close reefed. of course if we dont experience fair weather we cant [illegible] foul

Sunday June 9th

A strong wind. were under close reefed topsails got out some water this morning notwithstanding it was the Sabbath but is it not lawful to eat and drink on the Sabbath day? Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work

Monday June 10th

Calm today and been nothing [illegible] under double reefed topsails jib and spanker. nothing in sight and our weeks work was completed yesterday I think

Tuesday June 11th

A light breeze but a rough sea saw a school of humpbacks in the afternoon and went off on them until we found out what they were. then close reefed

Journal on board

S.P.C June 1872

Wednesday June 12

A light breeze from the N. W. that we were under closereefed topsails foresail jib and spanker. the same thing to be seen from aloft

Thursday June 13

A gale of wind from the South was under close reefed main-top-sail of course no lookouts on such a day

Friday June 14

The wind was fresh and the clouds was dark in the morning but in the afternoon we was looking around to see if a sperm whale was seen and suppose if so we would try him

Saturday June 15

A light breeze but did not hang out more sail than double-reefed topsails nothing in sight porpoises finbacks and humpbacks excepted.

Sunday June 16

Very pleasant with a light breeze from the S.W. was under double reefed topsails during the day and at night closereefed. and what of it?

Monday June 17

Good Weather

Tuesday June 18

Very fine weather during the day. were steering W. S. W. under main-topgallantsail which has not been taken in for the last two or three days a thing rather uncommon for us. nothing to do which is something usual

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. June 1872

Wednesday Jun

A fine breeze from the south was steering N.E. E. finbacks humpbacks & sulphur bottoms porpoises and almost any kind of sea-fish animals and birds to be seen here except sperm whales.

Thursday Jun

Better weather could not well be, humpbacks playing around the ship by thousands almost! but sperm whale did not beg it, great quantities of squid was seen. they which be run off

Friday June 21st

Cloudy and squally in the morning but in the afternoon it was pleasant humpbacks have not deserted us entirely yet. but their numbers seemingly diminished during the day direct W.S.W. to E.S.E. light puffs to

Saturday June 2

Dark and heavy cloudy and damp was cooler, double reefed topsails nothing in sight but sulphur bottoms in the afternoon got out winter [illegible] and some

Sunday June 23rd

Every thing still and quiet except the ship which was rolling heavily

Monday June 24th

Fine though not fair weather was seen two whales [illegible] finbacks and one merchant ship in sight but nothing more. we [illegible] [illegible] and I don't think we had enough to make two [illegible] on the end we got. [illegible] [illegible] are better this way than [illegible] [illegible] and much [illegible] [illegible]

Journal on board
S. T.
June 72

Tuesday June 25

Becalmed

Wednesday June 26

A gale of wind or about the same thing I like a good breeze once in a while but when there is so much and so rough that it is almost impossible to keep dry on deck it does not suit quite so well. no lookouts and that almost makes a good thing of the wet decks and clothes we was under close reefed main topsail

Thursday June 27th

Fair weather and not much wind was under double reefed fore and whole main topsail. nothing in sight.

Friday June 28

A gale of wind for the first eight hours accompanied by rain but after the rain the wind and sea or swell went down and the remainder of the day was suitable to roll around deck and sun ourselves

Saturday June 29

Thick weather. but dry. nothing in sight. rainy and squally during the night

Sunday June 30th

Squally and rainy during the day and no mastheads. In the afternoon saw [illegible] backs – they were called and perhaps rightly – so another day has passed with our usual

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S P O July 1872

Monday July 1st

Cloudy and cold with wind from the S.W. were under double reefed topsails with fly jib and gaff topsail set, nothing in sight but finbacks and other kind of whales that were useless to us

Tuesday July 2d

Fine weather with a light S.W. wind. finbacks humpbacks porpoises &c. in sight were under double reefed topsails

Wednesday 3d

"Clouds & Sunshine"

"4th of July

Not very good weather but altogether too fine to be here under close reefed topsails. nothing more than usual going on or to be seen. in the afternoon called the watch down on account of wind I suppose. it certainly was not to celebrate the national holiday

Friday Jul 5th

To day worse than yesterday my position is to be envied. I feel as well as usual today and I feel sure there are some that do not; the same kind of weather as yesterday no sail out. I would really like to see a sperm whale I am getting tired and I think the bunk the best place for me now

Saturday Jul 6th

Squally and misty rainy and cold. were steering E. S E. nothing to be seen but our old friends the porpoises which have been following us night and day at work but at night [illegible] all [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] also two ounces of tobacco

Journal on board

S.W. July 1872

Sunday Jul 7th

The same kind of weather squally and rainy and at three O'clock the men aloft were called down, and furled the fore sail and fore topsail, and luffed up on the starboard tack. course had been east

Monday Jul 8th

Clear and cool. was under close reefed topsails during the day. and on the starboard tack heading about E.S.E. I dont think we can be far from Juan or Masafuera. nothing in sight

Tuesday Jul 9th

Fine weather throughout the twenty-four hours. nothing in sight only now and then a piece of squid floating by was on the port tack heading E. by N.

Wednesday Jul 10

Good weather only two or the light squalls passed over us. was on the port tack heading about E. by S.

Thursday Jul 11

Fine weather with a light breeze from the South. was under double reefed topsails on the port tack heading W if we dont get something in the shape of sperm whales pretty soon we will all go mad or some at least

Friday Jul 12th

Clouds with the color of lead and men with hearts as heavy looking in vain for sperm whales. but neither sperm whales or anything else could we see. and no work to do

Bark Alfred Gibbs

N.B. July 1875

Saturday July 3

A strong breeze from the N. W. brought down the main top sail mended it and sent it up again. saw a school of humpbacks — some called them —

Sunday July 4

A strong breeze from the South and at about seven O'clock the topsails were called down at two they went up again and soon after sperm whales were raised off the lee quarter going directly to windward wore ship and lowered three boats and after pulling to windward for about two hours and not seeing more of them we gave up the chase. squally in the afternoon. no lookouts

Monday July 5

Calm or nearly so only a light breeze from the E. nothing at all in sight that looked nearer like a sperm whale than a finback. was under whole top sails flying jib and gaff topsail

Tuesday July 6

A strong breeze from the South was on the Starboard tack and under close reefed topsails nothing in sight

Wednesday July 7

Windy cloudy and cold. real cold for weather and what makes it still worse there is nothing to be seen. nothing to repay us for standing the two hours in the cold. was under close reefed fore and main topsail and foresail

Journal on board

S. T. O. July 1872

Thursday Jul. 18

Good weather. at half past six this morning sperm whales were raised off the lee quarter. and immediately the larboard waist and bow boats were ready and lowered. after chasing him about an hour close hauled on the wind the mate went somewhere near the side of him but did not get fast. the whale then 'milled' and started to leeward the waist boat in hot pursuit. and at about ten the waist b— went alongside of him but he saw us & rolled from us and when we had passed him he apparently thought it his turn to chase but he could not get us in that ugly looking jaw any better than we could him. at last however we got two irons in him and soon finished him and had him alongside at 2 when we got dinner or breakfast — for we had had none — then got up cutting gear an commenced cutting took his jaw off and called it a days work done there was sperm whales in sight all this afternoon

Friday July 19

Rather bad weather for cutting but we were at it as soon as we could see. and had his body on deck before 12 and his head in — case bailed and overboard before night, now I think we all feel better with this nice lot of oil and thank God for it.

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. July 1872

Saturday July 20

Fine weather a light wind from the South. we started the works early in the morning. cut the junk and had things fairly underweigh before noon

Sunday July 21

This day for the first twelve hours it was very good weather but the remainder was rainy cold and a pretty good breeze from the South. was under close reefed main topsail and foresail and on the port tack

Monday July 22nd

Cloudy and cold. was on the port tack heading about N. N. W. was boiling all day and sometime during the night finished. nothing in sight

Tuesday July 23

Good weather with a cold dry south wind. commenced stowing down in the morning and before 12 Oclock had but 86 bbls. out of sight and now we have 1120 bbls towards a voyage scrubbed ship in the afternoon nothing in sight

Wednesday July 24

Nearly calm. we on the starboard tack heading E. by N. the tryworks were repaired a little and a few other small jobs done I wonder how long it will be now before we have a little more excitement and work.

Thursday July 25

Fine weather with a light breeze from the N. W. was on the port tack and heading W. by S. nothing to be seen but porpoises and few birds

Journal on board

S.P.O. July 1872

Friday July 26

Good weather for the first twelve hours. but the remainder of the day was rainy. was on the port tack yet and during the day under doubl reefed topsails. closereefed at night

Saturday July 27

A strong breeze from the S.W. at about ten O-clock sperm whales were raised off the lee bow. I raised them but not a cent of bounty for me for they were going to windward very quick. was on the port tack.

Sunday July 28

Almost what would be called a gale of wind was under close reefed main topsail and fore staysail nothing at all in sight and in fact there was nobody aloft.

Monday July 29

Good weather, and not so rugged as yesterday. nothing going on of any account — yes. they put up crows nests to stand mastheads in which is of great account to us in this cold weather, one sail in sight

Tuesday July 30th

Nearly calm only a light breeze from the S. wind under close reefed topsails on the starboard tack heading E.S.E. I am bothered now about something that should have been learned years ago, and there is none that can help me — that I can to apply to — out of the difficulty but it is time to learn it now and to-morrow I will begin afresh

grammar or arithmetic

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. August 1872

Wednesday July 31

Calm in the morning, and we did not make sail until noon when we had a light breeze and set flying jib main topgallant and gaff topsail. saw nothing

August 1872

Thursday Aug 1st

A light breeze in the morning but we did not make sail. was under double reefed topsails. not a thing to be seen, or a thing to do

Friday Aug 2

Good weather. but not much wind a light breeze from the E. to ruffle the surface of the broad Pacific. now and then the huge back of the sulphur bottom to be seen. or the broad flukes plainly outlined against the clear blue sky. but they dont look much like a real 'squarehead'

Saturday Aug 3d

Just two years ago today we were lying in Fayal off and on, it seems as if we are making passage now for we have fore and main top gallant sail set now. and heading E.S.E. on the Starboard tack.

Sunday Aug 4th

Calm all day. did not make much sail this morning. it seems like being in port it is so still here not any motion to the ship. and generally it would cause any one to ask the question that the Quaker did [illegible] [illegible] him

"Friend wilt thou call this passage"

Journal on board

S. P. C. August 1872

Monday Aug 5th

Good weather throughout the twenty four hours nothing to excite happened until about three O'clock in the afternoon when the mate who was cleaning a bomb-lance that had wet powder in it put a piece of redhot iron in at one end when it exploded and went through the stewards leg and then into the cook's galley with such force that it could not be pulled out with the hands, about that time sperm whales were raised and three boats started immediately in pursuit and chased them until dark and then was not much nearer to them so gave up the chase and came on board

Tuesday Aug 6th

Cloudy and cold, with a strong breeze from the N. N. W. our course was S. E. nothing in sight but finbacks. now for a moody time if any one knows what that is, I mean a dull time as far as whaling goes. but with plenty of books I can enjoy myself

Wednesday Aug 7

Good weather with the wind from the N. W. was steering E. saw Massafuera in the morning and sailed along by it intending to go fishing but the wind began to blow so hard it was given up, kept our course until night when we luffed up on the port tack and shortened sail

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O August 1872

Thursday Aug 8th

Fine Weather

Friday Aug 9th

Good weather. in the morning saw Juan Fernandez and a bark there getting water and wood which proved to be the Mars. and after supper we gammed. and after the gamm was up we had a gale of wind

Saturday Aug 10th

A strong breeze from the S.W. with running part of the day with no men aloft. in the afternoon luffed up on the wind and men was sent aloft

Sunday Aug 11

A strong breeze from the N.W. was running until about four bells when we luffed up on the port tack when running our course was E by S or S. squally in the afternoon and men were called down from aloft. saw nothing during the day save a few finbacks, so goes the days weeks months and years. it seems almost like throwing away three years. but duty must be done go through in the best possible manner this time but look out for the next. and reader if you should ever be sold to a whaler remember you might do worse and even better

Monday Aug 12

Good weather was on the Starboard tack steering E. by S. we were put on allowance of molasses today after the high talk. and got a month's in the other

[illegible]

Journal on board

S. P. O. August 1872

Tuesday Aug 13

Raining and squally. was running with a strong breeze off our Starboard quarter. course E. by S. at three hove to on the starboard tack. Lat. 31° 24 min Lon. 75° 20 min

Wednesday Aug 14

Rainy and foggy during the day. was under close reefed topsails. and no lookouts kept. a dull day for all

Thursday Aug 15

Squalls and Sunshine

Friday Aug 16

Good weather during the day but we made no sail. perhaps in anticipation of bad weather. it is much more pleasant to have some sail set and going ahead than rolling lazily around in such weather. was on the port tack and heading East

Saturday Aug 17

Nearly calm. and nothing going on until 12 Oclock when a School of whales were raised and at about 1 four boats lowered and the third mate struck a small whale which took all of his line and the greater part of the fourth mates. when he came the second mate struck and killed him. and after much towing got him alongside it was then about five Oclock. I was not in the boat was trying to fill stewards place and have been since the mistake with the bomblance

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. August 1872

Sunday Aug 1

A strong breeze from the N.W. was nearly all day getting our prize on deck. chains were parting and straps too. but at last we had him comparatively safe; and bailed overboard but did not commence boiling

Monday Aug 19

Very good weather commenced boiling early in the morning. saw a sperm whale—or it was called one—at about eleven O'clock. but after he went down we did not see more of him. boiled all day and at night had more rain

Tuesday Aug 20th

Good weather. made sail this morning and stood off shore on the port tack finished boiling. turned up 56 bbls.

Wednesday Aug 21st

Rainy, cold and bad weather generally did not stow down today or do anything else rather dull take it all around

Thursday Aug 22

Good weather. in the morning a chilano sung out for a school of sperm whales off the lee bow three boats lowered and sailed around until about 11 O'clock when the fourth mate lowered and struck two whales and kept them until the other boats could get to them. the second mate then took one and killed it and he finished the other. got them alongside at about four O'clock. This is the first whaling scene I ever witnessed and as far as fear is concerned I felt more looking on than I ever did "in the mole"

Journal on board

S. P. O. August 1872

Friday Aug 23d

A pretty strong breeze today. and rather rough for cutting but we commenced this morning. and finished at about five O'clock without difficulty or accident. spoke the Mars at night she had not got a 'horse-piece'

Saturday Aug 24

Started the works this morning and boiled steadily all day. although with difficulty, and at night had to give it up altogether. on account of wind. hail. rain &c

Sunday Aug 25

Fired up again this morning it was raining and continued to rain until three O'clock when it began to blow. but we cooled down at noon and had things secure. but none too much so for we had one of the hardest blows we have had in the Pacific Ocean

Monday Aug 26

A strong breeze this morning but the wind gradually grew less. and at night fired up once more. the Mars in sight

Tuesday. Aug 27

Fine weather. finished boiling in the morning. and then commenced stowing down the next job is last and worst scrubbin ship. put 85 bbls. down the main hold which chocked it off. and then commenced in the after [illegible]

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. September 1872

Wednesday Aug 2

Good weather today. and we finished stowing down in the after hold. stowed down 103 bbls. off this fare so now we hail 1220 bbls. finbacks and one sail in sight

Thursday Aug 2

Good weather with wind from the N. W. cleaned up ship and after that our clothes, faces and hands or clothes if we choose. one sail and some finbacks in sight now for another dull monotonous spell

Friday Aug 30th

A N. W. wind today and good weather we was all coopers and setting up shooks when sperm whales was raised off the lee bow we was on the starboard tack— it was about ten O'clock and three boats lowered and chased them until three O'clock when we gave up the chase and came on board.

Saturday Aug 31st

Saw them again this after noon but they were far to windward and it was nearly sunset so we did not lower. set up shooks

September 1872

Sunday Sep 1st

Good weather with wind from the N.E. a real day of rest it was to us all

Journal on board

S.P.C. September 1872

Monday Sep 2d

Squally and bad weather through the twenty-four hours. now I begin to take my regular mastheads again and return to my old station with more clothes tobacco and so on Steward on duty and Captain gave me presents.

Tuesday Sep 3d

Clear and cold with wind from the south. was setting up shooks all day. this is the kind of weather for me. it reminds me of Autumn at home them that should know best say we will be at home in less than a year from now

Wednesday Sep 4

A good breeze from the South and cold. was on the Starboard tack heading E.S.E. during the day but wore round at night nothing but finbacks to be seen

Thursday Sep 5

Good weather with a light breeze from the south. was under the sail we usually are blow high or blow low. double reefed topsails. in the afternoon gammed the Mars. she had not taken any oil since leaving port but has been chasing whales today nearly all day

Friday Sep 6

Cloudy and cold with wind from the N.W. this is truly pleasant and will be in after life — if life is spared me — a bright spot to look back upon. I dont expect to ever have so many pleasant days again if I should live fifty years.

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. September 1872

Saturday Sep 7th

Good weather with wind from the S. we was on the starboard tack sailing by finbacks. humpbacks. grampuses and other kinds of water animals, or all that is to be seen around here I think. sperm whales of course excepted. at night we got our usual allowance of tobacco two pounds

Sunday Sep 8th

Good weather with wind from the west. was on the port tack part of the day and on the starboard the remainder nothing in sight

Monday Sep 9th

Cold rainy and uncomfortable. saw the Mars whaling as we thought so we ran down to her. and found she was not. then luffed up on the starboard tack. saw finbacks.

Tuesday Sep 10th

Good weather with wind from the S. W. several sails in sight the old Mars being the only whaler among them. we managed to get a porpoise today for the first time since leaving port and had some nice beef steaks from it

Wednesday Sep 11th

Good weather with a south wind was steering N. E. by E. most of the day. several merchant vessels in sight but one whaler among them also finbacks porpoises &c &c

Journal on board

Sept September 1872

Thursday Sep 12

A strong breeze from the South was on the starboard tack until the Mars came down to us and then wore ship and had a gamm one of her men had fallen from the masthead and nearly killed.
John Fisher of Westport

Friday Sep 13

A strong breeze from the South and almost as cold as Greenland I should think. nothing to do but keep warm and that was almost work enough Mars in sight.

Saturday Sep 14

Under close reefed topsail a cold south wind. Lat 35° 33 min Lon. 74° 44 min

Sunday Sep 15th

Fine weather with wind from the South. saw sperm whales early in the morning. and after breakfast four boats lowered and soon after four the mate struck a small whale. then the school started to leeward. and led us a long chase. at last we - the second mate - went alongside of one struck him but by some unaccountable means both the irons drew. the mate had then set a loose whale spouting thick blood which the fourth mate took. we then went on board but were soon sent to chase or rather pick up a loose whale, we got them alongside at 12. got dinner and commenced cutting finished cutting at about 5 1/2 O'clock

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. September 1872

Monday Sep. 16

A fine morning and was good weather until noon when it began to rain so we 'cooled down' but started the works again before night and cooled down again before midnight

Tuesday Sep 17th

A strong breeze this morning but we commenced boiling. cooled down at noon & have not fired up yet

Wednesday Sep 18

Good weather. started the works this morning and boiled steadily all day. a nice breeze from the South and a smooth sea. two sails in sight

Thursday Sep. 19

A strong breeze with wind from the south. finished boiling this morning at about seven O'clock and commenced stowing down. put down about 30 bbls.

Friday Sep 20th

Good weather with wind from the South. finished stowing today. this last fare stowed us 75 bbls. and makes us 1290. all told. 500 more is the quota.

Saturday Sep 21st

A strong breeze from the south. mastheads only in the morning. got out a little blackfish oil to burn and that with washing ship completed the week's work. a little work make the time pass quickly. the season is almost up. and a quick one it has been to me as well as pleasant

Journal on board

S.P.C. September 1872

Sunday Sep 22d

A gale of wind from the south was under close reefed main topsail and no mastheads this day

Monday Sep 23d

A strong sout wind. was on the port tack. under close reefed main-topsail. and foresail. no mastheads this is just the resting spell we want I dont say need

Tuesday Sep 24

Good weather again set whole topsails and topgallantsail. was on the Starboard tack heading E. set up headstays and backstays

Wednesday Sep 25

A light breese from the North was steering E. S. E. raing and cold

Thursday Sep 26:

Good weather with a light breese from the south. at about eight Oclock sperm whales were raised off the weather bow. coming to leeward all hands were called. and three boats lowered. the third soon struck a small cow. which started the school to windward. the other two boats could not get near enough to strike and after running about four miles she turned up 'fin out' then we had a fine time towing to leeward. got him alongside at about noon got dinner and commenced cutting finished cutting at about six Oclock which finished the day work.

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.C. October 1872

September 27

Good weather with a light breeze from the S. was on the starboard tack heading E. S. E. Started the works in the morning and boiled all day. set up a few casks in the meantime. we must be near in shore I think by the looks of the water

Saturday Sep. 28th

Good weather with a light breeze from the South was steering E. S. E. under maintopgallantsail. finished boiling at seven A.M. and stowed away part of the oil the remainder is too hot

Sunday Sep. 29th

Calm in the morning but at ten O'clock we had a light breeze from the S.W. a nice warm day clear and pleasant. just the thing for sailors

Monday Sep. 30th

Finished stowing down the oil today this last whale stowed down 33 bbls. making us a total of 1320 bbls captured within 28 mos.

October 1872

Tuesday Oct. 1st

Clear and cold. with a light south wind fine weather to wash the old oily rags we use. and that is just about all we did. so this is the month I am 17 years old. "come hithermore come hitherwill time is slipping"

Wednesday Oct. 2nd

Nice weather

Journal on board

1.P.C. October 1872

Thursday Oct. 3d

Nice weather. a light south wind and a clear sky. commenced stowing casks in the fore hold. but at about ten O'clock Sperm whales were raised off the lee beam. all hands were called and three boats lowered the mate soon struck a calf. the second mate a big cow. and the third mate had more trouble it seemed as though he could not strike one without being high and dry on another's back but he finally did. and then ours started away from the school. - a thing which in no way displeased me for there was too much white water around blue is my favorite color in such a time especially - before we could lance him he sounded and took our line. he soon came up and we pulled on. picked up our line and at the same time put a bomb lance in him. that stopped his spouting for about 20 minutes. he then commenced spouting thick blood. and kept it up for about a half hour. had the three alongside at about 3 O'clock and two cut in before dark. Mr. Brown the third mate got stove a little

Friday Oct. 4th

Finished cutting this morning and had a nice fire going soon after dinner. no lookouts

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. October 1872

Saturday Oct 5th

Good weather with a light wind from the S. was boiling nicely until three Oclock when sperm whales were raised off the lee beam three boats lowered and soon the second mate struck a good sized cow. then the mate struck one which we did not see before he took him alongside ours after lancing two or three times he went down and died hauled him up and fluked him and then lay until about eleven Oclock when we were picked up

Sunday Oct. 6th

Cutting notwithstanding the inclemency of the atmosphere weather and so on. cut in two whales and commenced boiling spoke the [illegible] she had taken 100 bbls. and been in port to discharge a man

Monday Oct 7th

Boiled and stowed this forenoon but quit stowing and boiling before noon on account of wind

Tuesday Oct. 8th

Boiling

Wednesday Oct. 9th

Good weather with a light breeze from the North finished boiling at about seven 'Post Meridium' turned up 70 bbls. now we are in the humor for anything and the way things looks we will bid adieu to the coast off Chili off this sea

Journal on board

S.P.O. October 1872

Thursday Oct. 10th

Calm until four Oclock when we had a good breeze from the South was stowing down and nearly finished nothing in sight

Friday Oct. 11th

Good weather with a light breeze from the N. W. finished stowing oil this morning put down about 100 bbls. so now we have 1470 bbls. the remainder of the day we stowed casks in the fore hold. for more oil which we want now more than ever. such seems to be human nature

Saturday Oct. 12

Now we are doing it watching ship. nothing seen and no work

Sunday Oct. 13th

Good weather with a light breeze from the South. this afternoon gammed the Mars. had just finished boiling a 100 bbl. whale

Monday Oct. 14

Good weather and the only excitement we had was at auction in the afternoon. our cook's — that was — things - clothes &c was sold which was some fun for us all

Tuesday Oct. 15

Cloudy and warm. with a light breeze from the West. about the only work was ripping up the foresail. which was the work of about 30 minutes

Lat 36° 30 min Lon 74° 34 min

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.F.O. October 1872

Wednesday Oct. 16

Good weather with a light breeze from the S. W. nothing occurred of any consequence untill about four O'clock when sperm whales were raised we lowered and chased them until sunset. then came on board

Thursday Oct. 17

Nearly calm, in the morning sperm whales were raised and three boats lowered and chased to windward leeward and all around until about 12 O'clock when as they were nearly out of sight we came on board. the Mars close to

Friday Oct. 18th

Good weather with a light west wind and all sail set. was on the starboard tack. one sail in sight

Saturday Oct. 19

A strong breeze from the south. was under double reefed topsails on the starboard tack. at about five P.M. sperm whales were raised and three boats lowered and chased until dark without success three or four sails in sight one whaler

Sunday Oct. 20th

A strong breeze from the south was on the starboard tack under close reefed fore and maintopsail no man aloft to look for whales. but one sail in sight from deck. wore ship in the morning and again at night. and got out some water which is usually a Sunday job,

Journal on board

S.P.O. October 1872

Monday Oct. 21st

A strong breeze from the South was on the starboard tack under close reefed topsails. and no mastheads. three sails in sight from deck. the Mars one of the number

Tuesday Oct. 22

A pretty good breeze from the South but we put a little more sail on and men were sent aloft to look for whales but without success. gammed the Mars

Wednesday Oct. 23d

A south wind

Thursday Oct. 24

No men aloft today. this is just the weather to suit. find a dry warm place on deck and read, sew, smoke, chew, spin yarns, scrimshaw or anything else

Friday Oct. 25th.

The same kind of weather that it has been for the past week nothing to do except watch the merchant ships running across our bow and stern it was truly a source of amusement and a pretty sight for there was a great number of them and them that had masters to say "go ahead" was plainly distinguished from others and there was great difference in their sail a rather loading would require

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. October 1872

Saturday Oct. 26th

Just like any other Saturday

Sunday Oct. 27

And this day has been just like other days of the past week in every respect. mastheads a part of the day. under close reefed topsails and foresail and a great number of merchant vessels passing us

Monday Oct. 28th

Dull times now. our clothes are all washed and mended and we are ready for better weather and more oil but neither come. this morning we set the maintopmast staysail but before noon the stay parted and of course let the sail down I think our luck is over for this season.

Thursday Oct. 29

The weather is at last getting better. less wind and more sunshine men aloft all day but nothing to be seen but finbacks and humpbacks

Friday Oct. 30th

A good breeze from the S.W. was on the starboard tack heading E.S.E. our work today was sewing sail nothing in sight Lat 34° 43 min Lon 74° 22 min

Saturday Oct. 31st

Good weather with a light S.E. wind was on the port tack under short sail heading S.S.W. hundreds of finbacks and humpbacks in sight and one sail Lat 34° 54 m Lon 74° 15 m

Journal on board

S.P.O. November 1872

Friday Nov 1st

Friday was a fine day with a light breeze from the South was under double reefed topsails and on the port tack the only work was holding paint pots to paint a little here and there Lat. 34° 44 min Lon 74° 14 min

Saturday Nov. 2d

A South wind and cold

Sunday Nov 3d

Fine weather with a light breeze from the South. was under whole topsails and maintopgallantsail nothing in sight save finbacks

Monday Nov 4th

Nice weather with wind from the S.W. was on the starboard tack and steering S. by E. our work for the day was sewing on an old topsail. at night the topsails and topgallant halliards were 'pulled' which looked a little like going in port. and then, to get news from home. but whether good or bad time only can tell. from which is the most enjoyment anticipation or participation?

Tuesday Nov 5

Calm in the morning. sent down main topgallantsail put on a few patches and sent it up again this with a new maintopmast springstay completed the days work. no sail taken in tonight

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S. P. O. November 1872

Wednesday Nov 6th

Lively times today. or we all felt pretty well & suppose the principle reason was seeing so much more sail set than usual. it was all put on this morning and the course S. E. by S. one boat was lowered for blackfish but no blackfish for us

Thursday Nov 7th

Calm until about two O'clock in the afternoon when we had a strong breeze from the S. S. W. was on the starboard tack until night when we wore ship. took in light sails and double reefed. Tobacco $1.50

Friday Nov 8th

A strong breeze from the south was on the starboard tack during the day. under double reefed topsails and courses. heading S. E. by E. wore ship at night. nothing in sight

Saturday Nov 9th

A strong breeze from the South wore round this morning and was on the starboard tack until about eleven and a half A.M. when we wore ship and made all sail. at about noon tacked and at 2 saw the old Moses coming down for a gamm we hauled aback and lay about two hours when we sent a boat on board at five the gamm was up and we commenced beating up. cape land has been in sight three days and now the light can be seen

8 P.M.

Journal on board

S.P.B. November 1872: In Port

Sunday Nov 10

The morning found us inside the bay of Talcahuano becalmed at eight we was moving but at a slow rate but at ten, we dropped anchor and the starboard watch went on shore.

Monday Nov 11

A little washing on the outside of the ship was our days work and the larboard watch ashore at night not an American ship in here this one of course excepted.

Tuesday Nov 12

A North wind and a strong one not weather fit for work, but a watch ashore at night it is about as dull on shore here now as on board ship.

Wednesday Nov 13

A good breeze from the North yet but today we have done a big days work took some shooks on shore and took on board about 60 bbls of Beef & Pork, larboard watch on shore tonight.

Thursday Nov 14

We had a strong breeze from the North today, a Gale I suppose, no boat could go on shore with safety so we have the day to ourselves - the starboard watch, at ten A.M. the Anna Rosa - whaler - of this port dragged anchor and went ashore but was taken off by steamer Bio Bio of Valparaiso this counts liberty

Bark Alfred Gibbs

In Port November 1872

Friday Nov 15th

Good weather. and some work going on setting up shooks and other jobs of a like character. preparatory to going out on another - probably six months cruise

Saturday Nov 16

After the watch came on board this morning and had breakfast. our work commenced painting ship - I don't think it is quite so dull here as out to sea but I doubt whether we feel very much better. take one time with another

Sunday Nov 17

A Nice(?)looking crowd of us went on shore this morning on liberty about half of the watch was going to Concepcion. and we all went for a walk before the train left at 11 o'c. a nice ramble we had and got back just in time for the train. a nice ride we had over the sandy country. and in about 45 minutes we were safely landed. but Concepcion unlike Talcahuano is very quiet on this day. and we did not enjoy ourselves very much. coming back we saw a great number of peons working men - intoxicated by the way. this is the day and the principle way of enjoyment in this country. but little could I find in such beastly actions, propensities or whatever it may be called. but the 'peons' are not the only ones that indulge.

Journal on board

In Port November 1872

Monday Nov 18

However nice we may have looked yesterday. the majority did not look so well this morning. and some was not to be seen at all and it was sheer meanness. for nearly all had broken liberty before Ariel was allowed to go again and the best men compelled to do the work of others

Tuesday Nove 19th

The watch came on board this morning like men and worked as such starboard watch ashore at night

Wednesday Nov 20

A fine day but no work nothing to do but sleep. as for me I dont feel very well doing nothing and surely no better at work. thoughts of home come over me which makes me feel bad

Thursday Nov 21

Cool. today we took water and at night went ashore the starboard watch. and got $1.

Friday Nov 22.

Today we took our wood and worked pretty sharp. and I dont care to go ashore to-night even if I could. I hear we - the starboard watch will get liberty tomorrow but whether it is so or not I care but little. but dont think I will miss going

Bark Alfred Gibbs

In Port November 1872

Saturday Nov 23

Today we had our last liberty but had rather a dull time of it an out to Concepcion in which place there is nothing to be seen when it is open and strolling around in Talcahuano. neither of them noted places of amusement unless one could amuse himself in getting drunk. and many there are who try it. and afford amusement for others if not for themselves.

Sunday Nov

A very pleasant day and quiet enough on board with one watch ashore on liberty

Monday Nov 25

Now for two or three days we can lay around on deck without slipping but it is but for a short time. we must soon try whaling again. the Mars came in ag to-day

Tuesday Nov 26

Took a few potatoes on board to-day and that was about the extent of our days labor. a boat steerer shipped in the place of one discharged ran away a day or two since and now such work has commenced I would not wonder if it was kept up for a week more. port watch ashore tonight

Journal on board

In Port November 1872

Wednesday Nov 27

A pleasant day and a boat's crew of us went 'quahoging' had a pretty good time of it but was rather hungry before we got back. Starboard watch at night

Thursday Nov 28th

Another pleasant day and no work. but we get along just as well as if we had it.

What shall I write about? when we stop on board ship and sleep all day and at night go on shore and see nothing. tell my dreams? they would be as interesting and as sensible as some things I do write

Friday Nov 29th

All asleep yet. during the day: although at night there was a little more stir. the starboard watch went on shore and visited a sick man who had been poisoned here on shore intentionally no doubt.

Saturday Nov 30

Rather too much wind for comfort had we had work. but we managed it very well to take a few sacks of potatoes and then sleep until three o'clock when the port watch got supper and went on shore

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O December 1872

Sunday Dec 1st

A nice day for a run on shore but a run on shore we did not get not one of us. probably on account of some men that did not come off this morning. a large U S American man of war came in this morning. Pensacola

Monday Dec. 2d

A strong south wind and this is the day set for sailing but the poisoned man had to be discharged and likely two or three more with steward is very sick today

Tuesday Dec. 3d

A good south wind. at nine O'clock part of the crew came off and one man more was put on shore sick, but we were finally all together and double reefed the topsails hove up anchor and at four P.M. was underweigh so here we are now plowing the salt sea and looking fore enough to get home and out of this

Wednesday Dec 4

I am really homesick- for such I must call Talcahuano now. I did not think I ever wanted to see the place again the first time in there but it really seems like home now and I think could be [illegible] very long too to stop there and make another out if God gives us some oil the season before another year rolls around we will be in N America what there is left of us

Journal on board

S.P.O. December 1872

Thursday Dec 5

A fine day and we put a little more sail on this morning. Lat. 36° 7 min Lon 74° 10 min

Friday Dec 6th

Good weather, but no sail made until noon when sperm whales were raised off the weather beam three boats lowered and the mate got stove but did not strike the whale at four the second mate struck on to the whale and took him alongside. Lat. 35° 31 min Lon 73° 57 min

Saturday Dec. 7th

Good weather, but so rough we did not try to cut. until about ten when all hands were called and commenced and finished at about nine spoke the Bk. Rocio of Talcahuano.

Sunday Dec 8th

Started the boiling process machine or whatever it may be called. it seems as if we have been a month from port. but the dull lazy port feeling has left, and whalemen are in their proper sphere

Monday Dec. 9th

Hove down this morning for wind nothing to do throughout the day but if we get good weather before the blubber spoils we will be just as thankful. I am particularly anxious to save all of this for a great dinner is promised, the waist boats crew and for 150 bbls and this knocks so many off

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. December 1872

Tuesday Dec 10th

Fired up again this morning and boiled steadily until night and without trouble more than a rough sea and a strong wind

Wednesday Dec 11th

Finished boiling this morning and the remainder of the day were busy cleaning up and making things secure. for we had a strong breeze

Thursday Dec 12

Stowed down the oil today. and finished at about 2 Oclock. I am getting discontented with whaling. I would really like my discharge here. or in Chili. I could run away but it dont seem quite right to do so.

Friday Dec. 13th

Quite pleasant day. with two sails not a great way off. from us. Lat. 35° 1 min Lon 75° 40 min

Saturday Dec. 14th

A fine day two whales in sight in the afternoon gammed the Cornelia she had been down to the leeward on the line but had only taken 200 bbls since April last

Sunday Dec. 15

Good weather with a fine breeze but nothing in sight except two whales in sight. today I returned to my old station again and glad enough to get back again I was

acting Steward

Journal on board

S. P. O. December 1872

Monday Dec. 16

Good weather. but bad luck sperm whales were raised this morning at about six. three boats lowered and chased them until noon and came on board. at two lowered again and we went alongside of one and put two irons in him but he kicked them out we got close to another. but not close enough to get him. the other ships got one each

Tuesday Dec. 17

More of the same kind of luck only the whales did not get any irons in them to kick out saw them in the morning but did not lower until after dinner. and then we pulled and pulled then lay the boat around until she headed for the ship and pulled again.

Wednesday Dec. 18

Too much wind to call it pleasant and too cold for comfort

Thursday Dec 19

Pleasant weather but not a thing to be seen except two or three whales. and in the afternoon gammed the good old pie box Cornelia I am more than ever disgusted with this business

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O December 1872

Friday Dec 20th

A strong south wind has on the Port tack and under double reefed topsails. nothing in sight

Saturday Dec 21

No lookouts. the greater part of the day. consequently nothing in sight but at four they were sent up and at six sperm whales were raised off the lee beam. going to windward eyes out. and the Cornelia's boats after them. we got ready but did not lower

Sunday Dec 22

Light breezes, three whalers in sight and in the afternoon we gammed the lot of them the Mars Mary & Susan and Cornelia the Mars had taken 120 bbls.

Monday Dec 23

Fine weather

Tuesday Dec 24

Under close reefed main topsail. in the afternoon men from aloft were called down. our brother whalemen have all disappeared

W. Christmas

A fine day at about nine o'clock two ships came down for a visit they were the Mary & Susan and Mars after noon the old Cornelia hove in sight and we ran down and spoke her. so we passed a very pleasant Christmas although far away from

Journal on cruise

S. P. O. December 1872

Thursday Dec. 26

N. W. wind and thick bad weather just the thing to correspond with some folks feelings this day after Christmas. we was steering South

Friday Dec. 27

Calm and warm. was working in rigging. our old friends were about the only thing to be seen from the masthead. and it did not seem to matter how much your 'optics' were 'extended'.

Saturday Dec. 28

No lookouts today "Not for Joe" it was rainy and cold. but splendid weather to sleep & smoke &c

Sunday Dec. 29th

Good weather on deck. but to the masthead Oh-h! it was fearfully cold on deck so nice to sun ourselves. and all of that sort of thing. it was nice to get there

Monday Dec. 30th

Good weather. was on the starboard tack. with main topgallant sail set. How can we be expected to see anything without tobacco? and of all the kind of smoking that I ever saw I think this is the greatest. some smoke tea: some coffee some cocoanut husks, and some get mad and don't smoke at all

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O January 1873

Tuesday Dec 31st 1872

The question seems to be whether we will see another December on board the Gibbs. I really hope not. but time alone will solve the mystery

January 1873

Wednesday Jan 1st

A New Year to commence on as spotless - thus far - as the paper I write on and does not - for the future - look half so streaked. but it seems impossible to live such a clean spotless life. here among breadscouse and salt junk with out tobacco

C Wednesday Jan

Cold and squally. I think a sailors life would not be more than half so wicked if we could only get plenty of the weed. as for myself it matters but little to me whether we - or I get it or not but I regret to say it does a very little

Friday Jan 3d

A long day

Saturday Dec 4

"The wind was high and the clouds were dark" and slowly goes the time. we smal heads today and nothing going on of more importance than scrimshawing

Journal on board

S.P.O. January 1873

Sunday Jan 5th

A strong breeze from the S. no South and we steering North under full sail. Now for another Minerva beach expedition. and if as fruitless as the last one I had rather take my chances South

Monday Jan 6

Running yet. and that at a greater rate of speed than I thought the Gibbs capable of. a pretty good wind to do it with

Tuesday Jan. 7th

Oh the day it came at last
When the glorious sound was heard
'Twas come get tobacco now
Both fore and aft.
And we went

Wednesday Jan 8th.

Running yet. but not so much wind I really am surprised at the rate we are going I would like to know what the lat. is

Thursday Jan 9th

A light South wind and steering North yet. this is nice weather for scrimschanning and we will soon be doing it on the rigging

Friday Jan 10th

All sail set yet. and course N. was at work on the fore rigging reeving new lanyards scarcely any wind at all

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. January 1873

Saturday Jan 11

Here we are in Lat. 23° S. Lon. unknown to me, commenced wetting hold today. so here is a job commenced that will last until we get to New Bedford

Sunday Jan. 12

Hot and the sky cloudless tonight we took in topgallantsails for the first time since we left 36° land in sight.

S. Monday Jan 13

Calm the greater part of the day and hot enough to make us sweat if we had work to do. steering N. & W. land close to.

Tuesday Jan 14th

No wind until after noon and not warm but hot. it must be bad fu North as most of these Chili whalers go and theirs are working ships not such as these

Wednesday Jan 15

A pleasant day was this. a light breeze during the day. a fine looking large merchant ship passed us within hailing distance this afternoon and was a fine sight. land in sight

Thursday Jan. 16

Calm and cloudy in the morning. but just after dinner a light breeze sprung up from the S.W. this has been just such weather as we needed to repair the standing rigging and we have been at work on it for the last [illegible]

Journal on board

S.P.O. January 1873

Friday Jan. 17th

Sultry, working on the rigging yet but I think it is about done this is nice weather for such work but not for men to work.

Saturday Jan 18th

Now I think we are off. no sail taken in tonight and everything set. our work is done. the rigging set up footropes overhauled &c. and now for some whaling at least we will stand a better chance for it farther South than here

Sunday Jan 19

A strong breeze from the South and we under full sail. two other merchantships in sight this is nice weather for sailing

Monday Jan 20th.

Pleasant

Tuesday Jan 21st

A strong breeze from the South and at night we had to take in the light sails. carrying sail makes it far more pleasant than laying around under double reefed topsails

Wednesday Jan 22nd

The first thing in the morning was to make sail. about that time sperm whales were raised and three boats lowered and the mate struck a small bull, the third mate then struck a good sized cow. then through mistake we struck the mates whale heart and struck another. we soon killed ours.

and then struck third mates and finished him. then took them alongside. and had them fluked and finished cutting at 7 P.M.

Thursday Jan. 23d

Boiling

Friday Jan 24th

Boiling. this creates agreeable talk that of going home and how can it be otherwise than agreeable when we are nearly three years from home? a smooth sea and fine weather

Saturday Jan 25th

Good weather: finished boiling this morning but with wetting hold and other work we made out a fair days work St. Felix and St. Ambrose in sight small islands situated in about Lat 26° 20 min S on 79° 47 min W.

Sunday Jan. 26th

A strong South wind. were under all sail. land in sight off the weather bow St. F. and a rock to the N.W. of St. Ambrose looks exactly like a ship under all sail and was reported as such no less than three times today

Monday Jan. 27th

Cleared up and cleared decks this morning to stow down, we put down 75 bbls making 1610 bbls. now for 200 more and home we go.

Tuesday Jan 28th

A strong breeze from the South. were on the Port tack, heading W. by S. nothing in sight

Journal on board

S. P. C. February 1873

Wednesday Jan 29

"Oh! life is a river. and man is a boat
That over its surface is destined to float
And joy is a cargo so easily stowed
That he is a fool who takes sorrow on board"

Thursday Jan 30th

Wind South

Friday Jan. 31st

Squally and rainy. and today we double reefed for the first time in four weeks. on account of wind, sent down the main topsail for repairs,

February 1873

Saturday Feb. 1st

A strong breeze from the south was under double reefed topsail and only thing to be seen was one solitary sail. a merchantship.

Sunday Feb. 2d

Squally and rainy. was on the port tack heading W. by S.

Monday Feb. 3d

A strong south wind with nothing to see hear or smell except the bilge water in the hold caused by this wetting hold and it cases trouble to both body and mind

Tuesday Feb. 4th

"Grows finer"

Wednesday Feb. 6th

Becalmed

Thursday Feb. 7

No wind

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. February 1873

Friday Feb. 8th

A strong breeze from the South. was under fore and main topgallantsail and on the port tack. nothing to see

Saturday Feb. 9th

A N.N.W. wind this morning and we squared the yards and steered E.S.E. until the wind came up to the south when we braced sharp up on the port tack

Sunday Feb 9th

A strong south wind and tonight the light sail was taken in. nothing in sight except a few pieces of squid

Monday Feb. 10th

Good weather

Tuesday Feb. 11th

"E'en then there were heartaches and
longings to die
Simplicity, beauty and ease
And hopes, for the future which hurrying by
Has slumbered for hundreds of years"

Wednesday Feb. 12

"The heart was the heart under helmet or hood
In castle in cloister and hall
Though joyous or sorrowful evil or good
'Twas always man's heart after all"
The Olden Time

Thursday Feb. 13th

A strong breeze as it has been blowing the last week. we have been carrying whole topsails and courses. nothing in sight and but little work

Friday Friday Feb. 14

Juan Fernandez in sight and the only thing worth mentioning

Journal on board

S.P.O. February 1873

Saturday Feb. 15

Lat. 24° 32 min Lon 76° 22 min

Sunday Feb. 16th

A strong breeze this morning but it soon moderated so we set all sail. and at night took it in.

Monday Feb. 17th

Made sail this morning notwithstanding several jaw squalls.– and this afternoon a whaler hove in sight. so we will soon hear the news.

Tuesday Feb. 18th

Squally during the day, but not bad weather. this afternoon land was raised off the lee beam.

Juan Fernandez very likely

Wednesday Feb. 19

A good breeze from the South. was under double reefed topsails. in the afternoon, gammed the 'Courser' had taken 600. bbls. since (May. 72) lost one man boats &c. etc

Thursday Feb. 20th

The Courser, finbacks, humpbacks and porpoises was the only things seen; and for the work we did it would take but few words to tell

Friday Feb. 21st

Calm

Saturday Feb. 22d

A holiday in some places. but here they are all holidays alike, nothing to see Lat. 34° 57 min S. Lon 74° 40 min W.

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. February 1873

Sunday Feb. 23d

Nice weather for whaling but it has been found the hardest part or the part most difficult to see them. we found it so today

Monday Feb. 24th

Good weather was under single reefed topsails nothing in sight not even a finback and they have been very numerous of late

Tuesday Feb. 25th

A strong South wind was on the Port tack heading W. by S.

Wednesday Feb. 26

Calm.

Thursday Feb. 27

A good breeze from the South was on the Port tack under main top gallantsail nothing in sight when I commenced writing in this book I think I said something about doing it to improve my writing perhaps it has a very little. but I have not seen anything written here really worth publishing

Friday Feb. 28

Fine weather with a light breeze from the S.W. was on the Starboard tack heading S.S.E. saw humpbacks breaching finning and spouting. but worth there was none. Lat. 35° 25 min Lon. 76° 1 min

Journal on board

S.P.O. March 1873

Saturday Mar. 1st

A strong breeze from the South. finbacks and humpbacks — by thousands around us. this afternoon we gammed the John Carver and had a pretty good time

Sunday March 2d

A strong breeze from the south. nothing in sight but the Carver. this 'is extremely dull and this day I could enjoy farming well.

Monday March 3

Nothing to be seen from deck and no men aloft. was under a double reefed maintopsail and foresail

Lat. 34° 50 min Lon. 74° 35 min

Tuesday March 4

Quite pleasant and this morning a sail was reported off the lee bow. glasses were brought out and she was closely scanned and called a new comer so we squared in — ran down — and gammed the — John Carver.

Wednesday March 5

Pleasant: the question seems to be 'How long before we will get another whale?' and one that of course none can answer. wind South.

Thursday Mar 6

Course S.E. and good weather perhaps a little too foggy to be particularly pleasant or to see objects at a great dist—

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. March 1873

Friday March 7th

"Pride may live in his mansion large
Have everything thats grand
May covet smiles from ladies fair
And drive his two-in-hand
May deem himself an A 1 great
Perhaps an archeotype
But for his wealth I'd not give up
My dear old meerschaum pipe"

tobacco day

Saturday Mar. 8th

Our course this morning - the wind being North - was S by E. with some rain to got with it. but before ten A.M. we had good weather with a S. wind J. Carver in sight

Sunday [illegible]

Pleasant. was under double reefed top sails and courses. in the afternoon gammed the John Carver

Monday Mar. 10th

A strong breeze from the South nothing in sight except two sails and humpbacks. we was steering N. E.

Tuesday Mar. 11

A pleasant day. with a light S.E. wind. three whalers in sight and all running E. S.E. really if it was not so early I would say we were all going in port

Wednesday Mar

Good weather with a light breeze from the S. W. was on the Starboard tack steering S.E. nothing in sight

Journal on board

S.P.C. March 1873

Thursday Mar 13th

Good weather. this morning we were in sight of land but not a living thing to be seen except one finback and he was going eyes out. Lat. 37' 16 min

Friday Mar. 14

It is hardly possible to conceive a more beautiful morning at sea than this. three ships in sight. two of them bound for Tal. and the other - the Seine - coming for us and a gamm we certainly did have but I have enjoyed myself better.

Saturday Mar. 15

Pleasant. a light S.W. wind one sail in sight. and a finback us. the latter was playing around the ship the mate lowered and succeeded in getting one very poor chance at him. in the afternoon we gammed the J.C.

Sunday Mar 16

A strong N. W. wind and we poor mortals that ought to be in Talcahuano fitting for home out here standing mastheads in this cold cold rain. but so it is. hard but fair

Monday Mar 17

A light S.W. wind nothing in sight under double reefed topsails and on the starboard tack

Bark Alfred Gibbs
S.P.C. March 1873

Tuesday Mar

A light N. W. wind. this afternoo
the Bk Seine as we thought
ran down to us for a gamm
and just before she got to us
we squared in the yards and
ran off before the wind. but
soon found it was not the
Seine but another new com
but then gamming was out
of the question after such doings

Wednesday Ma

Becalmed. yesterday the Cape Horn
Pigeon passed us as we found
by the John Carver. today

Thursday 20th

Calm

Friday Mar 21st

A strong breeze from the
North. this afternoon came
down to do close reefed topsails
Lat. 36° 53 min Lon. 74° 20

Saturday Mar 22

This morning it was nearly
calm cloudy and cold. with a
south wind. at about ten O clock
saw a sail running for us and
after dinner gammed the goo
Bk Mary and Susan. made all
sail and steered E N.E. by E. at
four O clock the gam was
up but no sail taken in
and our course the same.

Journal on board

R.P.G. March 1873

Sunday Mar 23d

This morning all hands were called at five to haul up cable and make sail. we rounded Quiriquina point at about eight, and at eleven dropped anchor in Talcahuano Bay for the last time this voyage I hear.

Monday 24

To day we have been making preparations to take freight & probably the Mary and Susan's oil

Tuesday Mar 25th

I am really tired tonight and do not care to go on shore. for with five light men to hoist 1000 lbs of meat out of the hold for one that has done no work for so long. it goes hard

Wednesday Mar 26

We are slowly but just as certainly getting ready to take oil. a bad day to work this

Thursday Mar 27

This morning the Mary and Susan hauled alongside of us and hoisted 360 bbls of oil on our deck and we stowed some of it down. watch on shore at night

Friday Mar 28

Stowing down and clearing out the main and after holds to stow more. chocked off the fore hold this morning watch on shore about an hour

Bark Alfred Gibbs

In Port March 1873

Saturday Mar 29

Work this time in port is plentiful today the M.&S. came alongside again and we took the remainder of her oil. 640 bbls. all told and stowed some of it down.

Sunday Mar. 30

The starboard watch went on shore today. but whether it was liberty or not I do not know we had to come on board at 8 P.M. tuff times on shore. only three whalers here this time and only two more to come. two years ago there was 13 here and quite a number yet to come

Monday Mar 31st

Finished stowing oil today but see nothing but work for the next fortnight for all that the watch was on shore scarcely an hour tonight

Tuesday Mar

April 1873

Tuesday Apr. 1st

Our work is but just begun although one part is finished today we have been getting ready for water

Wednesday 2d

Took on water today and this afternoon the John Carvers boat came and took some meat bread &c. I am glad to see it go. it all seems to say homeward bound

Journal on board

In Port April 1673

Thursday Apr 3de

Cleaning off decks today, took fluke-chains. blubber hooks and all that sort of thing aft. our only spare boatt was put overboard and sold. small pox there is on shore here

Friday 4

Our work today was clearing up and cleaning up and last night the watch went on shore with a small fortune the giver seemed to think it. but it was really one dollar. our Capt. has gone to Valparaiso

Saturday June 5th

Loosed the sails this morning and when they were dried sent them down and stowed them away. in the meantime painted one side of the ship

Sunday Apr. 6th

Port watch went ashore this morning after being on board about half an hour. the wind came out N. during the day and the second anchor was dropped

Monday Apr. 7th

Hove up our second anchor this morning and commenced painting. knocked off early in the afternoon but because our 'first luff' did not care to go ashore no watch was allowed to go

Bark Alfred Gibbs

In Port 7th April 873

Tuesday Apr 8th

Painting all day and at night the Port an starbourd watch went on shore with $1.

Wednesday 9th

Painting

Thursday 10th

Sleeping

Friday Apr 11

Doing Nothing

Saturday Apr 12

Starboard watch ashore on liberty today, and a dull time we had: three or four of us went to Concepcion but had no fun

Sunday Apr. 13th

Port watch ashore on liberty to-day and the watch on board: nothing to do but eat, sleep or other ways enjoy ourselves.

Monday Apr 14

Starboard watch ashore on liberty again today, but I can not think of one thing neat that I saw or heard worth putting down even in such a book as this

Tuesday Apr 15

Today we were on board ship and the Port watch on liberty and I for one enjoyed myself as well

Wednesday 16

A last ramble over the hills of Chili we took today and at 4 PM we went on board that is the time the liberty usually plays out

Journal on board

In Port April 1873

Thursday Apr 17th

Port watch on liberty, the watch on duty bending sail and getting ready to leave the place

Friday Apr 18th

Bending sails, all hands

Saturday Apr. 19th

All ready to sail as far as I can find out. and the sooner the better. for according to all accounts there is an abundance of small pox on shore

Sunday Apr. 20th

A run on shore for the starboard watch without money but luckily for me I had enough to bring me on board ship and I used for the purpose, at noon while on shore this morning a crowd of us were walking along the street when we saw some women priests and such coming well guarded by soldiers. it is the customs of the country as in most Catholic places that you have to take off your hat and kneel down but this was too much for me so I said to a chap by the name of Quinton lets walke the other way. we turned and had not got far before four soldiers came with swords drawn telling us what to do. we took our hats off and while he was trying to make us kneel the gang passed

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.C. April 1873

Monday Apr 21st

All things are ready and to morrow is the day appointed for the Alfred Gibbs to sail but it is a matter of doubt.

Tuesday Apr. 22

"The wedding day appointed was
And the wedding things provided
But ere I made that gal my wife
She sickened and she died"

Commonwealth

Wednesday Apr. 23

Yesterday we had a fair wind to sail but it was wait, wait, and now we have a strong North wind fair after we get out, but we are underway. with three passengers, and they will be constantly in hot water I anticipate

Thursday Apr. 24

Calm. gammed the Mary & Susan at night we had a light breeze and set fore and main royal. but before eleven they came in

Friday Apr. 25th

A good breeze from the N and we are making [illegible] good [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] rain during the day but what [illegible] of rain when we are heading S.E.b.S.

Saturday Apr. 26

S. & W. wind all the morning but it is backing to the S & W and will soon be ahead I suppose

Lat. 37° 57' Lon. [illegible]

Journal on board

S. P. O. April 1873

Sunday Apr. 27th

On the port tack and heading W. S. W. with maintopgallantsail and courses set. a little rain which by the way is not at all agreeable with this wind, at noon wore ship and headed S by W.

Lat. 38° 19 min Lon 78° 8 min

Monday Apr 28

Wore ship again this morning and headed W. N. W. no lookouts. was under topsails and courses. in the afternoon double reefed

Lat. 38° 16 min Lon. 76° 8 min

Tuesday Apr. 29th

Good weather. was on the starboard tack heading S. E. by E. under topgallantsails no lookouts to day and as far as I am concerned I dont care whether I ever have to go up to look for whales or not. Lat. 38° 28 Lon 75 55

Wednesday 30th

Rainy and squally. the greater part of the day was hove to under double reefed topsails the greater part of the day. course S. W. by S. this is the way we go home a fair wind for a week and have made but little more than 3 degrees I prophesy a long passage

Bark Alfred Gibbs
870 May 1873

Thursday May 1st

Nearly calm this morning but the wind gradually grew stronger from the N. and now we are going well under fore and main royal.

Lat. 41° 35 min Lon. 76° 50 min

Friday May 2d

In the morning set everything that would draw. but we did not have much wind until after four P.M. Lat. 43° 35 min Lon 77° 49 min

Saturday May 3d.

A light breeze from the S.W. rendered it impossible to proceed on our course. and before noon it was calm which rendered it impossible to proceed at all. course S.

Lat. 45° 45 min Lon 77° W.

Sunday May 4th

A good North wind. but it really does not seem much like going home. for as soon as we get a breeze it is shorten sail. in the dog watch after supper tonight just before eight bells the order was given to clew down and double reef the main topsail and with six light men to reef a new sail took some time long enough to get used to the [illegible]. the [illegible] from [illegible] Slocum [illegible]. [illegible] finally been [illegible] out.

Lat. 47° 37 min Lon. 78° W

Journal on board

S.P.C. May 1873

Monday May 5

Light S.W. wind this morning but we made sail. and the wind soon hauled round to the W. course S.E. by E. Lat. 49° 39min Lon 76°

Tuesday May 6th

Raining with a North wind. but before night we got a South wind so had to shorten sail. not a very comfortable job.

Wednesday May 7th

A strong S.W. wind this morning and we laying to under double reefed topsails but we gradually set more until we were under fore and main to'gan'sls Lat. 53° 55 min

Thursday May 8th

This morning we had a good S. W. wind but it soon died out. then came a breeze from the S.E. so wore ship. and shortened sail course E.S.E. Lat. 54° 44 min Lon 77° 9m

Friday May 9th

Becalmed the greater part of the day. at night we had a light breeze from the S.W. course E.

Saturday May 10th

Calm, or nearly so. a light wind from the N.W. it has been a very pleasant day for this part of the world. we have had much better weather here than I anticipated. but we are not out of it yet.

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.A.O. May 1873

Sunday May 11th

Bracing round and wearing most of the day and at midnight we had a calm.

Monday May 12

Calm during the day. the sun was eclipsed this morning. the barometer indicates bad weather and bad weather I suppose we will have.

Tuesday May 14th

A fair wind throughout the twenty four hours. and with fore and mainroyals set we made some Lon. I think, two sails in sight one on either beam and we seemed to gain on the other during the night had some snowballing Lat. 57° 30 min. Lon. 68° 24 min

Wednesday May 15th

Squally through the day. and at night we had hail, rain and cold fingers. until we had taken in royals topgallantsails, staysails and double reefed Lat. 55° Lon. 65° 25. S.E by E.

Thursday May 16th

Snow in abundance. and it was really dangerous to show your face without being well armed. S.E by S.

Friday May 17th

A strong breeze this morning and when we had got nicely turned in at 11 all hands were called. to take in courses and close reef topsails. at 10 A.M. did heave to. but started again at ½ 7 P.M.

course N.N.E.

Journal on board

S.A.C. May 1873

Saturday May 17th

Fine morning until about 7 P.M. when all hands were called to take in foresail and maintopsail and heave to. so now we are hove to under maintopsail and fore staysail this "All hands" is a most doleful sound and it is not particularly pleasant to turn out of a warm bunk to go on deck in the sleet and rain

Sunday May 18th

Swung off to the breeze - for it was no longer a gale - this morning and kept making sail piece by piece until we found main-royal set. our course today was N. Lat. 52° 16 min Lon. 56° 24 min

Monday May 19.

Good weather. with a light breeze from the S.E. and for the sail we had set we was going along nicely but in the other watch - Port - they are always taking in sail. the "blowhards" are easily found out. and it has been truly said that "words uttered in storms are forgotten in calms" - applied to our chief officer - Lat 50° 5 min Lon 56°

Tuesday May 20th

Light winds Lat. 49° 4 min

Wednesday May 21st

Calm during the day but at night had a light breeze from the S.W. but did not show more than double reefed topsails

Bark Alfred Gibbs

SAO May 1873

Thursday May 22

Hove to until four P.M. then set a reefed foresail and ran until four then hove to again

Friday May 23

All hands were called this morning to furl the maintopsail. got her up there and while stowing it up, rolled the lee sail under and kept the men at the lee yardarms under water it seemed to me about two minutes I found it very cold under there and was glad enough to see daylight again, the starboard boat was carried away. they then concluded to set it again which we accordingly did. this is the times we have been called to help the Port watch, I think we would get along better if the water header was kept below next to [illegible] at least 20 days quicker

Saturday May 24

A nice west wind and our course N.E. by E. under fore and main topsails Lat. 45°13 m S. L. 46 [illegible]

Sunday May 25th

A nice fair wind to day but we did not set another stitch of sail for we are willing to have something besides nice breezes [illegible] and [illegible]

Lat. 42° 3 [illegible]

Journal on board

S. A. C. May 1873

Tuesday May 26

Hove to untill noon when we made sail and steered N. N. E.

Wednesday May 27

A fine breeze from the S. W. our royals were sent down about a week ago. so we could not of course set them but everything else was set. Lat. 40° 5 min Lon. 30°.

Thursday May 28

A good blow today. was hove to under close reefed main topsail and fore staysail. Now for it

Thursday May 29th

A fearful blow today. and a bad sea. our first officer gave up all hopes of seeing home again and stood no watch. of which fear was the cause. no rolling motion to the ship she just lay over and trembled

Friday May 30th

A good breeze today spunk was actually got up to set main to gansail. but over reefed topsails and that taken in when night came. Lat 37° 39 min Lon. 39° 30 min

Saturday May 31st

Such works! going home do they say? One would think some awful fate awaited us then to see us going. as it really ought to some of our crew a month from port and this morning was the first proper nap I have had my watch on deck, and that in the boatswains locker

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.A.O. June 1873

Sunday June 1st

A such a day I never saw. a violent gale. and I confess to feeling a little uneasy and dont think I was the only one. was running all day and to heave to would have been to lose a maintopsail and likely the masts so the knowing ones say and it looks very likely. E.N.E.

Monday June 2d

Hove to before 12 last night but started again this morning course N E ½ E. under all sail.

Lat 34° 27 min

Tuesday June 3d

A nice day. this morning we could not head our course but she gradually came up until she headed. N. by E. when we held on

Lat. 33° 30 min

Wednesday June 4th

Our breeze holds out yet. but we dont make the most of it. our sails would draw but not on deck. although I must give them great credit for setting topgallantsails course N. by E. Lat. 30° 43 min

Thursday June 5th

Very light was the wind but we were going along very nicely a full rigged ship passed us very close this morning closer [illegible] [illegible] than she would had we seen her sooner. Lat. 28° 20 min

Journal on board

S. A. C. June 1873

Friday June 6
Becalmed

Saturday Jn 7th
No wind

Sunday Jun 8th
A strong N.E. wind. Lat. 25° 43 min.

Monday Jun 9th
Calm

Tuesday Jun 11th
Light S.E. winds Lat. 25° 6 min

Wednesday 11th
Lat. 24° 6 min.

Thursday Jun 12th
Strong E. wind Lat. 21° 45 min

Friday June 13th
Calm Lat. 21 10'

Saturday June 14
Calm Lat. 20° 53' tonight we had a glorious swim all round. and after we came out. a light breeze sprung from the S.E.

Sunday June 15th
Light S.E. winds Lat. 20° 6'

Monday June 16
Strong S.E. wind. sent up royal yards today and set the sails. Lat 17° 36'

Tuesday June 17th
Going nicely with a light S.E. wind. course N. b. E. Lat. 15° 57

Wednesday June 18th
Strong trades. today. course N. by W. during the day several sails were passed closely but at night one was passed much closer than the rest which had neglected to show a light

Bark Alfred Gibbs

N. Y. June 1873

Thursday June 19

Raining Lat. 10° 30 min

Friday June 20th

Today we saw land somewhere near Pernambuco. Brazil. in the morning was steering N. W. after seeing land and going in close to it steered N. E. Lat. 7° 40'

Saturday June 21

Raining all day and nearly all night. but no one cares for a little water here. but off Cape Horn — — Lat. 4° 30

Sunday June 22

A rainy morning. but at noon it cleared up and now it is fine weather again Lat. 1° 41' S.

Monday June 23d

To-day we crossed the line without any serious difficulty our wind is light now. and if we should get becalmed here it would be unhealthy as well as uncomfortable Lat. 0° 30' N.

Tuesday June 24

Light S. wind Lat 2° 27

Wednesday June 25

Very light wind Lat 4° 4'

Thursday June 26

Lighter still Lat. 5° 45' c N. by W.

Friday June 27th

Now fairly the N. E. Trade winds are blowing fresh and we are going nicely under fore and main royal. Lat. 7° 25' N on 34° co. N. W.

Journal on board

N.A.O. July 1873

Saturday June 28

A fine breeze today and we made 220 miles which is about as good as we have done. course N W ½ W. Lat. 9° 19min Lon 42°

Sunday June 29th

Under topgallantsails and 235 miles nearer home Lat. 11°22' Lon 45°35'

Monday June 30

Going—'ages out' Lat. 13° 20'

July 1873

Tuesday Jul. 1st

Nice wind finished painting ship inside. Lat. 15° 30' Lon 44°

Wednesday Jul 2d

If we could only keep moving at this rate about ten days more our nautical career would be ended, but we have yet to "beat about through storms and calms" I suppose. Lat. 17° 37'

Thursday Jul 3d

A strong E. wind. probably we will have no more regular trade winds, but a fair wind is good whether from the N E. or S.E. Lat. 19° 51'

Friday 4th of July

A little work done. with pretty fair sailing, nothing to a except a little gulf weed

Lat. 21° 51 min

Saturday Jul. 5

Light S. wind Lat. 23° 15'

Bark Alfred Gibbs

N.A.O. July 1873

Sunday Jul 6th

Very light S.E. wind Lat. 24° 8 mi

Monday Jul 7th

Light S.E. wind Lat. 24° 31' & Lon. 60° 5'

Tuesday Jul. 8th

Course N.W. ½ N. Lat. 25° 53 min

Wednesday Jul 9th

Light S.E. wind, course N.N.W. Lat. 27° 2' Lon. 63° 53' A fine looking bark passed us this afternoon with topmast topgallant and lower studding sails set and was a fine looking sight

Thursday Jul. 10

Squally Lat. 28° 46 min

Friday Jul 11th

Squally the first twelve hours then the the wind hauled out N.W. by W. Lat. 30° 22' Lon 65°

Saturday Jul. 12

Light S.E. winds Lat. 31° 9 min

Sunday Jul 13

Squally and some thunder and lightning in the morning was under fore and main royal but in the afternoon was under close reefed top sails could not get latitude

Monday Jul 14

Light winds and squally course N.N.W. Lat. 34° 15 min we are nearing our destination but make very short sail for the wind 1440 miles from home

Journal on board

N. A. C July 1873

Tuesday Jul. 15

Head wind this morning but soon it hauled around W. S. W. when we steered N. N. W.
Lat. 34° 42' Lon. 68° .30'

Wednesday Jul. 16

No more whaling. the try works were given to Davy this morning, and now we are in the Gulf stream Lat. 36° 42' Lon. 69°

Thursday Jul. 17

A head wind in the morning but it soon hauled around S. W. and away we went until about midnight under fore and main royal. the weather looking bad we then commenced taking in sail. took in royals then the old man came up and called all hands it is true "the lightning flashed and the thunder roared but our watchheader noble man, would have got along without. so there is once for us.
Lat. 39° 12 min course N by W.

Friday Jul. 18th

A calm this morning but the wind soon came out N right ahead. we on the Starboard tack kept coming up until now we head N. N. E. course N. E. hove the lead brought in 35 fathom water. Lat. 40° 04' Lon 72° —

Bark Alfred Gibbs

July 1873

Saturday Jul 19

Thick fog. and a gale of water. made sail this morning and steered S.E. by E. spoke the schooner Billy Jones of Brookhaven. and found that we about seven miles from Gay Head light. it bore E. by S. then hauled up cable and commenced firing for a pilot at about three O'clock Capt Swift came on board and commenced his task but with wind ahead and very light we cant make much

Sunday Jul 20

This morning found us off Newport R.I. and scarcely any wind at all. at ten we got a slight breeze from S.W. which grew stronger until four O'clock when we needed it no longer nothing but a fast horse

Tuesday Jul. 29th

Have not settled that great whaling voyage yet but have agreed to work on this farm today I m or we made it father and I. whether it will be better than whaling I know not. I head from some of my shipmates the other day. they have got some money suing the [illegible] for his kicks and other brutal treatment on board ship.

Journal of

August 1873

Friday Aug. 8

Today I have been to S. P. postoffice and I had four of my teeth extracted, and such a time and some money more or less.

Thursday Aug 14

A rainy day, and how we need it. this seems good, much better than standing on deck. but in good weather I have begun to envy whalemen.

September 1873

Monday Sep 22

Went to New Bedford for teeth the impression of my mouth was taken and tomorrow I go again

Tuesday Sep 23

Got them $8.00 costs

October 1873

Oct 1st

Went to cattle show Taunton

Oct 2d

Dance at Farmers Joy

Oct 6

Factory to a meeting

The Farm

James Allen
Dartmouth
Mass.